Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-068
Friday
8 April 1994

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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-068 *08 April 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'No Progress' in Cairo Talks; To Resume 10 Apr *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Shohat: Progress 'Achievable' in Economic Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
'Sources' Warns Palestinians of Delay in Withdrawal *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Official Discusses Boycott of Israel *[AFP]* 1
Energy, Mining AMU Council Session Ends 8 Apr *[JANA]* 2

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 1 Apr 2

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Issues Statement of Condolences on 'Afula Events *[AFP]* 4
PLO Official Expresses Regret *[Jerusalem TV]* 4
PLO Says Incident Highlights Need for Peace *[MENA]* 4
Islamic Jihad Comments on More Attacks *[Tehran International]* 4
'Arafat Adviser Notes Peres Request *[MENA]* 5
PLO Spokesman Comments 8 Apr *[Tunis Radio]* 5
'Arafat Denies Attempts To Replace Italian Observers *[Tunis Radio]* 5
Hebron Emergency Committee Dissolved; 'Differences' Cited *[Jerusalem TV]* 5
'Arafat Marks 40 Days Since Massacre *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Abu-Sharif on U.S. Actions, 'Extremist' Groups *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 8 Apr]* 6
Wrapup of Reports on Arafat Messages, Meetings 6
U.S. Envoy Given Message for Clinton *[Algiers VOP]* 6
Yeltsin Updated on Peace Process *[Algiers VOP]* 7
'Arafat, PRC Envoy Meet *[Algiers VOP]* 7
Issues Reviewed With French, British Envoys *[MENA]* 7
Troika Ambassadors Briefed on Events *[MENA]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Prime Minister Analyzes Country's Situation *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Security Forces Reportedly Foil Assassination Bid *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Apr]* 8

Egypt

Musa Expresses Sorrow Over 'Afula Car Bomb Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
Spanish Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 9
Meets Foreign Minister *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Confers With Arab League Chief *[MENA]* 9
Meets Mubarak, Comments *[MENA]* 10
Ministerial Meeting Planned *[Madrid International]* 10
Leaves Cairo After One-Day Visit *[MENA]* 10

Minister Leaves for IMF Talks in Washington *[MENA]* 10
Details of U.S. Commander's 'Secret' Visit Noted *[AL-SHA'B 1 Apr]* 10
AL-SHA'B Chief Editor, Reporter Interrogated, Released *[MENA]* 11
Mufti on Jerusalem, Normalization, Violence *[AL-'ARABI 4 Apr]* 11
Islamic Groups' Conditions for Ending Violence Given *[AL-'ARABI 4 Apr]* 13
AL-SHA'B Reporter on Trial for Reporting U.S. Arms Sales *[AFP]* 13
Editor Killed After Publishing Caricatures *[AL-'ARABI 4 Apr]* 13
Police Kill One 'Terrorist;' Arrest One in Chase *[MENA]* 13
Security Raid Thwarts Planned 'Terrorist' Attacks *[MENA]* 13
Three 'Terrorists' Killed in Asyut Clash *[MENA]* 14
Said Leaders of Military Wing *[MENA]* 14
Six 'Terrorists' Surrender to Security Organs *[MENA]* 14
'Terrorist,' Soldier Killed in Shoot-Out 7 Apr *[MENA]* 14

Sudan

Al-Bashir: U.S. Envoy 'Did Not Touch on Anything New' *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Al-Bashir Discusses Reconciliation Talks, Other Issues *[London AL-WASAT 28 Mar]* 15
Foreign Minister on Egypt, Situation in South *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 31 Mar]* 16
Ummah Party Leader Reportedly 'Rearrested' *[MENA]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Cabinet Reshuffle Believed Imminent *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Apr]* 18

Yemen

Oman Talks Failure Brings 'Pessimism' in Aden, Sanaa
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Apr] 18
House Issues Statement on 'Crisis,' Tasks Committees *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Salih Takes Questions on Phone-In Program *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Al-'Attas Lauds Salih-al-Bid Meeting *[AL-DUSTUR 6 Apr]* 21

IRAQ

Ba'th Party 47th Anniversary Statement *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Ramadan on Embargo, Kurds, South, Foreign Ties *[AL-SHA'B 1 Apr]* 28

ISRAEL

Foreign Ministry Denies'Secret' Contacts With Iraq *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Peres Holds 'Grave View' of 'Arafat Silence *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility for Ashdod Attack *[AFP]* 32
Peres: Negotiations With PLO To Continue Beyond 12 Apr *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Hebron Waqf Officials Detained Before Commission Appearance *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Demonstrators Call For End to Talks With PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Rabin, Goldstein's Widow Testify Before Shamgar Commission *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT]* 33
Settler Leader Claims Area of Jericho Enclave Enlarged *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Commentary Criticizes Rabin's Leadership *[DAVAR 5 Apr]* 33

JORDAN

Peace Talks Boycotted Until al-'Aqabah 'Siege' Resolved *[AL-RA'Y 7 Apr]* 35
Prince Hasan To Visit U.S. To Discuss 'Siege' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 35
SAWT AL-SHA'B: 'Afula Bombing 'Legitimate Act of Jihad' *[7 Apr]* 35
Ba'th Party Calls For End to Talks, Iraqi Embargo *[AL-THAWRAH 1 Apr]* 35

LEBANON

Spanish Foreign Minister Solana Visits 36
Meets With Buwayz *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Buwayz Comments on Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Solana Comments on Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Solana Meets Leaders *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Solana Ends Visit, Departs *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Columnist Views Christopher's Tour, U.S. Policy *[AL-SAFIR 31 Mar]* 37

SYRIA

Al-Asad, Khaddam Meet Iranian Parliamentary Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Further on Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Iran's Ruhani Meets Other Officials *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Further on Khaddam, Ruhani Talks *[IRNA]* 38
Al-Asad, Ruhani Discuss Peace Process *[IRNA]* 39
Speech-Rally Marks Anniversary of Ba'th Party *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Al-Ahmar Addresses Ba'th Anniversary Rally *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Khaddam, Hizballah Secretary Stress Continuation of Jihad *[Tehran Radio]* 42

SOUTH ASIA

India

Visiting PRC Vice Foreign Minister Interviewed on GATT *[Delhi TV]* 43
Daily: U.S. Attempt To Link F-16's, NPT 'Unacceptable' *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 2 Apr]* 43
Head of Atomic Energy Department on Nuclear Energy Usage
[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 2 Apr] 44

Iran

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran *[IRNA]* 45
Velayati, Yemeni Minister Note Bilateral Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Senior Clerics Oppose Resumption of Ties with U.S. *[IRNA]* 45
Rowhani Returns From Syria, Comments on Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Various Issues 46
Hamas Spokesman on 'Spiteful' UN Response to 'Afula Bombing *[Tehran TV]* 48
Commentary Notes Reactions *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Jannati Leads Friday Prayers; Criticizes U.S. 'Pressures' *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Clinton's Remarks, U.S. Support of Israel Criticized *[JOMHURI-YE-ESLAMI 28 Mar]* 49
Paper Examines U.S. Differences With China *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 17 Mar]* 50
Clinton Remarks on 'Enemies of Peace' Viewed *[RESALAT 17 Mar]* 51

Pakistan

Bhutto Comments on Government Measures, Nuclear Program *[Islambad TV]* 52
Mirani Reaffirms 'Unflinching' Support for UN Peace Efforts *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Editorial Views U.S. Request To 'Freeze' Kashmir Issue *[THE NATION 3 Apr]* 53

Arab-Israeli Talks

'No Progress' in Cairo Talks; To Resume 10 Apr

TA0704141194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The participants in the discussions at the Prime Minister's Office held in the wake of the Cairo talks this morning were advised that this week's negotiations achieved no progress. The talks will resume on 10 April and continue until 12 April, the eve of the commemoration day for fallen IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Israel categorically rejects the Palestinian demand to reopen the negotiations on the map of Gaza Strip roads and zones on which the two sides have already agreed.

Other disputed issues are the size of the Palestinian police and the authority that will have jurisdiction over Israelis who commit offenses in the Gaza and Jericho precincts. In fact, the legal committee was unable to start discussions because the Palestinian representatives to this committee failed to show up at the meeting. Our correspondent adds that it has been agreed that in view of the situation, there is no point in sending the delegation back to Cairo today.

Our correspondent adds that in the Paris talks, progress was achieved in the negotiations on the Gaza port. It was agreed that the procedures governing the other international border crossings will be applied in the port.

Nabil Sha'th, the chief Palestinian delegate to the Cairo talks, says the Israeli proposals on the Gaza and Jericho autonomy jurisdiction are totally unacceptable. In his opinion, the Israeli proposals stand in complete contravention of the Oslo Declaration of Principles. Nabil Sha'th refused to specify the substance of the Israeli proposals.

Shohat: Progress 'Achievable' in Economic Talks

TA0704164594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who heads the Israeli delegation to the economic talks in Paris, says that although not all the problems have been solved, progress is achievable. It has been learned from the Israeli delegation that about 60 percent of the economic agreements have been drafted.

Last night Israeli and PLO representatives discussed worker traffic. The remaining unresolved issues are the imports from Arab countries and the value added tax rates. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that the PLO has agreed to establish a monetary authority instead of a central bank, and as for Palestinian currency, there will be a limited token issue.

This round of the Paris talks will continue until 11 April.

'Sources' Warns Palestinians of Delay in Withdrawal

TA0804074494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Text] Israeli sources say that any delay in the deployment of Palestinian policemen will bring about a delay of one or two weeks in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Major General Amnon Shahaq also said as much to his colleague, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, during the last round of talks in Cairo. This was reported in a consultation held in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's Tel Aviv office yesterday.

A member of the Israeli delegation explained that the deployment of the Palestinian police force will take about one month and that until it is completed, the IDF will not complete its withdrawal. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin firmly opposes unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Sources in the defense establishment say Israel will not create a power vacuum which could be filled by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], even if this means our remaining in the Gaza Strip for another week or two against our wishes.

The question is: Why are the Palestinians holding up the entrance of the first Palestinian police officers, who are slated to arrive in the autonomy areas in two days. A senior political source said: This does not stem from 'Arafat's negative attitude; even worse, it is the result of internal differences of opinion and disarray within the Palestinian delegation.

Jerusalem hopes that despite the differences of opinion between the generals and the politicians within the PLO, the first eight Palestinian police officers will arrive in Gaza and Jericho next Sunday or Monday.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Official Discusses Boycott of Israel

NC0704110194 Paris AFP in English 1004 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Dubai, April 7 (AFP)—It is too early to consider an end to the Arab trade boycott of Israel because the Middle East peace process has yet to achieve success, a senior Arab League official said here Thursday [7 April].

The league's assistant secretary general for political affairs, 'Adnan 'Imran, told AFP: "It is premature to talk of lifting the boycott because the reasons which motivated this legitimate measure have still not disappeared."

And he said those trying to pressurise Arab countries would do better to "concentrate their efforts on ensuring the success of the peace process."

The Arab League agreed in Cairo last month to postpone a debate on whether to ease the trade boycott of Israel,

amid anger over the Hebron mosque massacre in which a Jewish settler killed 30 Arab worshippers in February.

The decision ignored a US campaign aimed at lifting the indirect boycott on foreign firms doing business with Israel following the signing of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord in Washington in September.

Oman and Qatar had also pushed for easing the boycott, Arab diplomats said.

Ministers from the 22 member countries agreed to consider the boycott imposed over four decades ago at a session later in the year.

"We are waiting for the day when the Israeli occupation ends and that will lead to a lifting of the boycott," according to 'Imran, a Syrian.

Damascus, one of the four Arab parties in the peace negotiations with Israel, has steadfastly opposed lifting the boycott until Israel withdraws from all Arab lands captured in the 1967 war.

'Imran said all Arab countries agreed on the need to bring peace to the Middle East.

'Imran, who was attending a meeting of the Arab Towns Organization here, also condemned the recent defence agreement signed between Israel and France which ended a 30-year freeze on military cooperation.

"We hope France will revise its policy especially as Arab states hope to reinforce their friendly relations with this country."

And he warned Paris should not count on Arab support "if it aligns itself with Israel, supplying it with the means to bring war and destruction."

He added that the Arab League was stepping up efforts to restore Arab solidarity badly shaken by the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, when Jordan, Yemen and the PLO were accused of backing Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait.

Arab-Israeli peace talks suspended since the Hebron massacre are due to resume at the end of April.

Energy, Mining AMU Council Session Ends 8 Apr

LD0804092194 Tripoli JANA in English 0842 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 8, JANA—The sixth session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Ministerial Council for Energy and Mining was concluded in Tripoli last night.

During the concluding session the final statement of the meetings of the sixth session was ratified. The statement expressed satisfaction for what had been achieved by the sectoral committees of the council and confirmed the need to adopt practical measures and concentrate on priority projects that could be accomplished with the available auto-resources.

The council confirmed in its statement the necessity for conducting studies and accomplishing tangible projects of quick return and benifit for the people of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The council also expressed its satisfaction for the report of the electricity committee and the level of cooperation established between the various electricity corporations in the Arab Maghreb Union, particularly the studies in respect of general planning and the activities for linking electric grids and networks as well as the level achieved in training and formation.

The council stressed the significance of concluding the studies for electric lines and supplies between Tunisia and the Great Jamahiriyah.

The council also expressed its satisfaction for the level of results achieved in the areas of electric exchanges and the progress in unifying the standards for electrical equipment and the preperation of electro-mechanic industries guide, and the exchange of exprerts in respect of annual over-hauling for oil refinery and the exchange of know-how and information amongst the various institutions in the sector of energy and mining.

The council stressed the need for intensifying the efforts for accomplishing studies and executing the projects stated in past recommendations, the continued actions towards establishing the Arab Maghreb Union charter of energy, the proposals for establishing the Arab Maghreb Union mainentance corporation with full use of the available potential. It also stressed the need for completing the sudies in respect of water desalination and the introduction of recycled energy resources.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 1 Apr

NC0604153494

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 1 April issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Israeli Center Prepares 365 Studies on Islamists
2. Islamists' Activities Highlighted
3. Repentant Extremist's Story Refuted
4. Labor Party Official on Party Policy, Cultural Conflict

ISRAELI CENTER PREPARES 365 STUDIES ON ISLAMISTS

In a 250-word report on page one, AL-SHA'B writes that "the Israeli Academic Center in Cairo has prepared about 365 studies on Islamic groups in Egypt, and about 2,567 researchers and public figures collaborated with the espionage center to prepare 295 field studies, including one on the Labor Party and its questionable relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood."

ISLAMISTS' ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTED

In a 300-word report, 'Adil al-Bahnasawi writes on pages one and seven that the killing of innocent people in al-Ghana'im in Asyut Governorate by the security forces has caused "extreme anger among the people." The writer adds that "until this incident took place last Sunday evening [27 March], al-Ghana'im has been outside the circle of this escalating conflict between the security forces and the Islamic groups."

Another 240-word report by 'Amir 'Id and Khalid Yunis on pages one and seven notes that "the Islamists scored a sweeping victory and all their candidates won in the pharmacists union elections that took place last Tuesday [29 March]."

REPENTANT EXTREMIST'S STORY REFUTED

Under the headline "The Story of the Investigation's Agent Who has Become a Television Star," AL-SHA'B publishes on pages one and seven a 950-word report commenting on the television interview with repentant Islamic extremist 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi. The paper says that according to reports received by AL-SHA'B, 'Abd-al-Baqi "works for the State Security Investigations Service," was "planted among the Islamists to spy on them and collect information," and "has never been a leader and has not recruited 10,000 people as he claimed, but was merely a member in the al-Shawqiyun group." The paper says that it has interviewed some of those mentioned by 'Abd-al-Baqi, including Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Samawi who "affirmed that 'Adil 'Abd- al-Baqi works for the State Security Investigations Service and that he befriended him and got married to his sister-in-law to spy on him." Shaykh al-Samawi denies that 'Abd-al-Baqi was his student in prison or that he instilled in him the idea of stealing from the rich to spend on members of the group. He adds that when they both got out of prison, 'Abd-al-Baqi came to his house to apologize for his ill manners in prison and ask for forgiveness and to be accepted as a student, promising he would be a loyal and faithful student and would only get married at his hands. Shaykh al-Samawi then says: "I was deceived and thought that he came with a pure heart."

LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL ON PARTY POLICY, CULTURAL CONFLICT

AL-SHA'B features a 3,600-word article on page five by 'Adil Husayn, former chief editor of AL-SHA'B and Labor Party secretary general, in which he begins by outlining the party's dogma.

Husayn says: "Under the banner of God is great, we seek to mobilize our people against American oppression and the strategic alliance between the U.S. Administration and the Jews, which seeks to cause strife among Muslims, humiliate us, and weaken us militarily, politically, and economically.

"The Labor Party, under the banner of God is great, is fighting the corrupt and illegal profiteers despite their power and high positions. God is stronger and higher. Yes, we fight the corrupt who plunder the nation's resources and hand its keys to the enemies.

"We resist the sale of national public sector companies to foreigners and Jews cheaply. We resist injustice, reject manifestations of luxury, and object to the displacement and impoverishment of workers and people.

"We reject attempts to cast doubt on Islam and on those who call for adherence to the Islamic shari'ah under the pretext of combating extremism and terrorism. We reject the spread of despotism, torture, indiscriminate killing, military courts, and death sentences en masse. We loudly declare that these methods will not end violence but aggravate it.

"All citizens and champions of freedom: You must realize that if you display indifference and allow the violation of your rights and sanctities to become a matter of principle and course, things will not stop with those who oppose the regime by force. State terrorism will reach anyone who expresses opposition in words. The current case against the leaders of the Labor Party and the editors of its newspaper is a prelude to something worse—all tongues will be cut and full darkness will prevail.

"The Labor Party is waging a struggle for the sake of God on various fronts. We ask the sons of this nation to participate with us in this struggle by joining our party and backing our policy. We ask them and ourselves to be patient, because God's victory is near.

"I say to the faithful that we must struggle and prepare the means for strength and victory, and then leave the rest to God's will. God's victory is certain to us; He does not violate His promise. Whether victory comes in our days or at the hands of those who come after us, we accept His will. But I wrote once and add today that the signs indicate that today's youths will witness the day of victory, God willing, if they strengthen their determination and intensify their efforts. I am not dreaming or imagining; I follow what is going on around us, in the Islamic nation and the world, and the facts and developments confirm the truth of what I am saying."

Husayn then reviews in detail a study by Samuel Huntington entitled "Is It a Clash Among Cultures?" which notes that the world is no longer composed of states but of seven or eight regional cultures. The conflict in the world will continue and perhaps intensify, not among states but among these cultures. The study explains how the West can deal with these cultures, including the Islamic awakening, and maintain its domination.

Husayn emphasizes the need for unity of the Islamic nation and strengthening of its alliance against the "Western Satan." He says unity can only be based on obedience to God. "It is against religion and country to accept the enemies' domination of our affairs and to

befriend them." This is the duty of believing governments. "But even if there are weak, corrupt, or unbelieving governments, the people's power can force them to abide by God's order," he says.

The writer concludes that the Islamic nation can achieve its goals and face the Western challenge. This, he says, demands "patience and the ability to continue the struggle and sacrifice." We are on the offensive in all places to raise the banner of "there is no God but Allah," and through large physical and material sacrifices we will achieve victory. But what is Egypt's role in all this? "It is certain that those who govern in Egypt have nothing to do with this Islamic awakening. In fact they are deliberately trying to smother it." But they will fail. "Do what you like. The day of reckoning is coming. On our part, we will continue the struggle by legal means to remove you, O corrupt and impotent ones, so persons who can restore Egypt to its place at the heart of the Islamic renaissance will assume control. In this struggle, I do not think that trials—or anything of the sort—will deter us. It is a small price that we will pay willingly, hoping that God will bless us."

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Issues Statement of Condolences on 'Afula Events

NC0704155494 Paris AFP in English 1526 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 7 (AFP)—The PLO expressed its condolences Thursday to the families of the seven Israelis killed when a teenage Palestinian militant rammed his explosive-packed car into a bus in the northern Israeli town of Afula.

An official PLO spokesman said in a statement to AFP: "The PLO presents its condolences to the families of the victims (of the attack)," which also left 45 wounded.

"The PLO hopes that all concerned parties will assume their responsibility to safeguard the peace process and achieve its aims, to ensure a just and equal solution between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples," the statement said.

The United States called on PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat Wednesday to condemn the Afula attack, carried out by a 19-year-old member of the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS, which is opposed to the peace process.

PLO Official Expresses Regret

TA0704165694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-al-'Ala', head of the PLO Economic Department, today expressed his regret over the killings that took place yesterday in 'Afula and today at the Ashdod junction. Abu-al-'Ala' said that these acts have an adverse effect on the peace process. He called on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to continue the talks in apart from these incidents for the sake of achieving progress in the talks.

PLO Says Incident Highlights Need for Peace

NC0704171294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—The PLO has announced that the 'Affula incident yesterday confirms the urgent need to achieve tangible progress to implement the interim agreement and to undertake practical measures to prove the seriousness of the peace process.

In a statement by an official Palestinian spokesman in Cairo today, the PLO expressed its grief over the incident, which left several Israeli civilians dead.

The organization noted that the series of actions that began with the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron and subsequent massacres, most notably that in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, where Israeli military forces have killed PLO cadres, confirms the urgent need to establish peace.

The spokesman said the PLO extends its condolences to the families of the civilian victims and hopes that all the parties concerned will assume their responsibility of safeguarding the peace process and achieving its goals to ensure a just and balanced solution guaranteeing genuine coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

Islamic Jihad Comments on More Attacks

NC0704184194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by Mohammad Beshkar in Beirut]

[Text] The Islamic Jihad in Palestine has announced its responsibility for the operation carried out by one of the Palestinian mujahidin this morning in the occupied city of Ashdod, north of the Gaza Strip. A Zionist settler was killed and four others were wounded in the attack. A statement by the movement obtained by our radio says: 'Ali al-'Amawi, an Islamic Jihad member from the al-Shati' camp in Gaza, acting alone, attacked a group of armed Zionist settlers in Ashdod this morning, killing one and seriously wounding four others. The mujahid was martyred by Israeli occupation forces' gunfire during the attack.

In a telephone contact with him a short time ago, Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, stressed the continuation of jihad and military operations against the occupation forces and the Zionist settlers. He condemned UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the president of the Security Council for rushing to condemn the martyrdom-seeking operation in 'Afula, north of occupied Palestine, yesterday. He said this proves that the United Nations and the Security Council are controlled by the American will. Asked about the Islamic Jihad in Palestine's operation today, he said:

[Begin al-Shiqaqi recording] The operations will continue. They reflect our people's protest against and rejection of the alleged and [word indistinct] peace agreement between the PLO and the Israelis. They stress that our people's option is to continue jihad and fight despite all attempts by the United States, the Zionist enemy, and the official Palestinian side to implement the Oslo agreement, which, again, I stress, makes peace for no one but gives another reason for war. [end recording]

'Arafat Adviser Notes Peres Request

NC0804052294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—Marwan Kanafani, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has expressed his surprise over Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statements, in which he asks the Palestinian president to personally condemn the 'Affula incident.

In a statement he made this evening, Kanafani said in answer to Peres' statements that it is very strange to hear such a request from the Israeli foreign minister—neither he nor Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed any kind of regret or condemnation when the Israeli army and intelligence deliberately killed six prominent youths from Fatah recently in Jabalyah in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian official added that the contrary was true since the Israeli housing minister expressed his and the Israeli Government's appreciation for such terrorist acts when he emerged from the Israeli cabinet's weekly session to declare the cabinet's stance on the incident.

PLO Spokesman Comments 8 Apr

LD0804082094 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] In a statement reported by WAFA, a Palestinian spokesman yesterday expressed regret for the 'Afula incident which led to the killing of a number of Israeli civilians.

He pointed out that the series of actions that started with the al-Ibrahimi [Hebron] Mosque massacre and the subsequent massacres, particularly in the Jabaliyah camp in the Gaza Strip where a number of PLO cadres were assassinated by the Israeli forces, and affirmed the urgent need to achieve tangible progress for the sake of implementing the transitional phase agreement.

The spokesman added that the PLO hoped that all the concerned sides would work toward living up to their responsibilities to protect the peace process and achieve the aims for which it started.

'Arafat Denies Attempts To Replace Italian Observers

LD0804075894 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] A Palestinian official source affirmed in a statement reported by WAFA last night that President Yasir 'Arafat had never talked about the possibility of replacing the Italian contribution to the international observer force in Hebron by a Spanish contribution.

The spokesman said that the PLO welcomed Italy's contribution to the international observers' force in Hebron.

Hebron Emergency Committee Dissolved; 'Differences' Cited

TA0704175694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has learned that the Hebron emrgency committee, set up by national intitutions and bodies in the wake of the al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre, was dissolved this evening. A statement on the dissolution of this committee was signed by the national institutions. Informed sources said that the committee's dissolution stems from internal differences.

'Arafat Marks 40 Days Since Massacre

LD0704220094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpts] A mass memorial ceremony was held in Amman yesterday to commemorate and glorify the martyrs of the Hebron massacre —which was perpetrated by Zionist settlers inside the holy Ibrahimi mosque in the middle of the blessed month of Ramadan—and to mark the passing of 40 days since the painful massacre.

A eulogistic speech by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was read on his behalf by brother al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Jordan. It said:

I invite you to stand in one minute's silence to bring blessings to the souls of our martyrs and to immortalize their revivifying memory while they are in the heaven of immortality with the prophets and the true messengers, such good companions. [passage omitted]

The continuous waves of martyrs are nothing but brilliant evidence of the resolve and determination of our people to defend their national rights and to bring them to materialize on the ground in order to create an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital, to ensure the return of our people to their land, and to achieve a just and durable peace for the coming generations of our people and nation in the land of Palestine, the land of peace, justice, and freedom and the cradle of civilizations.

Honorable brothers, we are passing through a critical and sensitive stage and we are at a fateful crossroads that requires not only that we continually display caution but also that we deal with the regional and international facts, variables, and emerging developments with all possible wisdom and experience, so that in the end we may serve the interests of the struggle of our people and our nation. We know very well the balances of power, the nature of the adversary with whom we are negotiating, and the support the adversary is getting from the world Zionist movement and from hegemonist powers in the world.

As much as our battle needs solid national unity, which we always strive to deepen and reinforce, it also needs full Arab and Islamic support, and backing, coordination, and cooperation among the brothers. All the achievements accomplished by our people through their honest and faithful jihad would not have been possible had it not been for their faith, will, and solid national resolve, and their militant and national unity. This is what we need at this stage, at this difficult stage, more than at any other time, especially as we prepare to enter the stage of building and creating the foundations of our national authority over the cherished liberated parts of our homeland and to proceed to build the edifice of our independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, in which we will shortly pray together, God almighty willing. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif on U.S. Actions, 'Extremist' Groups

JN0804101394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Apr 94 pp 16, 20

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Text] The PLO has called on the U.S. Administration and the French Government to accurately monitor and control the Jewish extremist groups in these two countries. The PLO has also strongly rejected calls by Israeli Police Affairs Minister Moshe Shahal and the so-called Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert not to allow Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to pray at the al-Aqsa Mosque. It said such calls are like throwing sand in ones eyes.

Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the Palestinian president, stressed to SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Jewish groups in the United States and France maintain dangerous links with the extremist groups in Israel. This, he said, poses a serious threat to the entire peace process.

Although Abu-Sharif spoke about the Jewish extremists' threats, he also hinted at the threats posed by the extremist Palestinian groups which receive support from states opposing the peace process, and which, openly, seek to foil and obstruct the current political process.

In the first Palestinian reaction to calls by some Israelis not to allow 'Arafat to enter al-Aqsa Mosque, the Palestinian president's political adviser said: Entering Jerusalem and the holy places is a right of every Palestinian. He pointed out that no one can deprive them of this right. He noted that President 'Arafat and the group which will accompany him to the liberated lands will perform their religious duties in the holy places.

He said that the occupation authorities have no right to prevent any Palestinian from performing his religious duties until the final status of Jerusalem is decided. He said that this issue should be guaranteed and safeguarded because Jerusalem is the city of the three religions and cannot be Judaized. He said that its nature and heritage must be maintained.

Abu-Sharif expected that matters will go in two directions; the first toward entrenching the bases of a comprehensive peace, and the second will be embodied by the extremist groups attempts to foil, obstruct, and delay the peace process.

He called for reaching an understanding on merging some of the clauses of the interim period and the final status stage. He said that entrenching the peace process requires the Palestinian and Israeli sides to work quickly to defuse any chance of explosion. He said that any such chance is based in the actions by the extremist Palestinians and Jews. He stressed that past dreams are over and that a new era has started.

The Palestinian president's adviser pointed out that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who enjoys farsighted strategic views, knows what he means, and that Yitzhaq Rabin, as a prime minister and defense minister, who also has a lot of experience, knows what he means.

He stressed that the events that have taken place have bypassed the Oslo agreement, and so, the Israeli Government should seriously think about synchronizing the settlers' withdrawal with the withdrawal of its military forces, or, otherwise, the settlers will turn into a party which will not only attack the Palestinians, but the Israelis as well.

Abu-Sharif reiterated his call for setting up a Jordanian-Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian operations room, whose task is to daily follow the peace negotiations affairs. He emphasized that a true and effective Arab coordination can attain Arab rights and foil Israel's attempts to deal separately with each Arab side.

Wrapup of Reports on Arafat Messages, Meetings

U.S. Envoy Given Message for Clinton

LD0704174794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo this afternoon. During the meeting, Brother Abu-'Ammar entrusted the charge d'affaires with a verbal message for President Bill Clinton on the talks currently under way on the implementation of the

declaration of principles agreement, signed in Washington, and the agreements signed in Cairo. The message also concerns the attempts and obstacles trumped up by the Israeli Government to enable it to avoid implementing the agreements, a matter which exposes the peace process to danger.

Yeltsin Updated on Peace Process

LD0704182594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received his excellency the Russian ambassador in Cairo this afternoon. The brother president entrusted the Russian ambassador with a message for President Boris Yeltsin on the latest developments in the peace negotiations and the obstacles the Israeli Government is producing to hinder the implementation of the declaration of principles accord, signed in Washington, and the agreements signed in Cairo, a matter which exposes the peace process to danger.

'Arafat, PRC Envoy Meet

LD0704183294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received his excellency the PRC ambassador in Cairo this afternoon. The brother president entrusted the PRC ambassador with a verbal message for the Chinese president in connection with the recent developments in the Palestinian arena and the talks currently under way on the implementation of the declaration of principles agreement, the agreements signed in Cairo, and the Israeli attempts to disrupt their implementation, a matter which is threatening the peace process in the Middle East.

Issues Reviewed With French, British Envoys

NC0704200794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—Tonight, in his place of residence at the guest palace in Cairo, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat met the French and British ambassadors in Cairo separately. Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo, attended.

During the two meetings, they reviewed the Middle East peace process and the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations last week as well as the obstacles Israel is placing before the peace process.

Earlier today, 'Arafat met the ambassadors of Russia and China and the American charge d'affaires in Cairo.

So he has met the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Troika Ambassadors Briefed on Events

NC0704205094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting this evening at his place of residence in the guest palace in Cairo with the troika ambassadors, who are from Greece, Germany, and Belgium.

The Palestinian president explained to the troika ambassadors about developments in the Middle East peace process, the obstacles Israel is placing in the way, and the Palestinian stance on the issues.

The meeting was attended by Acting Palestinian Ambassador Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo.

The troika is made up of three members of the European Union [EU]: the country that is currently chairing the EU, the country that chaired it during the previous round, and the country that will chair it during the second half of this year.

Algeria

Prime Minister Analyzes Country's Situation

LD0604140594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] AL-KHABAR and AL-WATAN newspapers today published an article by the head of the government [Redha Malek] in which he gave an analysis of the situation that our country is experiencing on all levels. Jamila Mezoued has the details.

[Begin Mezoued recording] Mr. Redha Malek said state officials, both civilian and military, have continued with courage and bravery to carry out their difficult tasks to repulse the specter of disorder and establish law and order. The head of the government added that recently some new promising economic prospects have started to become clear because of the agreements that are about to be signed with the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Redha Malek said all these compact acts constitute a firm view by a government that has not lost the initiative; it is today required, in the name of the public interest, to leave its distinctive marks on the course of events.

The head of the government said political pluralism and the freedom of expression are some of the main gains Algerian people have obtained since the ratification of the 1982 constitution. The government will remain, more than any time before, eager to preserve and bolster these gains.

Mr. Redha Malek added that in this sphere, it was high time for the restitution of the rule of law, because when some leaders of some political groups expect to achieve political interest by turning a blind eye on the terror that is shaking up a whole society, then this is ethically unacceptable, but it remains that everybody should have a conscience and, and history will be his judge.

In his article Mr. Redha Malek also says that when some openly call for insubordination and rebellion inside institutions dealing with order, and for an international boycott of our country, they are then obviously dealt with in accordance with the laws of the republic. Only the state bears the task of defending property and persons, preserving the unity of the people, and guaranteeing the harmony of the nation throughout the homeland. It is fine, Mr. Redha Malek says, that we denounce bribery, favoritism, nepotism, and all scourges. This is a salvation and courageous action, a commitment to society for the emerging of a political culture devoid of illegitimate privileges and settlement of accounts. The tactics of securing gains and all the demagogic ways that have been used excessively by some people must be fought by the political class first if the latter wants to retrieve its credibility.

Concerning the role of the press, Mr. Redha Malek says in his article that the information media play a decisive role, sometimes negative and sometimes positive, in changing situations. But some journalists and papers, the prime minister adds, have not yet arrived at appreciating the exceptional situation we are going through, and the degree of the complication and danger of the situation in our country.

Mr. Redha Malek said that in my capacity as the head of the executive body, the laws of the republic will be implemented on everybody. The prime minister added that if there were criticisms on this issue, they should be put in a clear and detailed way. The destructive confusion of issues and the easy and unfounded accusations should disappear completely from the columns of our press.

The article of Mr. Redha Malek added that the appointment of Liamine Zeroual as head of state will strongly contribute towards the definition of the vision and the consolidation of stability and security. If combating terrorism remains the most pressing duty of the state, it will not neglect other essential duties represented in the renewal of our political system to enable it to manage the transitional phase, in the light of a critical change, as stated by Liamine Zeroual in his speech in Tunisia. Mr. Redha Malek added that today, more than in any other times, our country strongly needs its sons. [end recording]

Security Forces Reportedly Foil Assassination Bid

PM0504151494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 94 p1

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Algerian Security Forces Foil Attempt To Assassinate Kafi"]

[Text] Paris—According to informed sources, former Algerian Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi was the target of an assassination attempt last week, and the security forces have arrested two of his guards for complicity in the operation.

The sources say that the security forces uncovered the operation in time and in doing so prevented any harm to Kafi, but observers do not rule out the possibility that the aim was to put pressure on the former chairman to force him to leave the presidential residence in Zeralda which he refused to leave when his term of office ended.

The responsible authorities had prepared a villa for Kafi in a military residential area in "Palm Beach" because he had leased his personal residence to a Spanish company.

Meanwhile, President Liamine Zeroual has canceled his meeting with Dr. Saeed Saadi, leader of the Grouping for Culture and Democracy. The cancellation of the meeting, which was scheduled to take place yesterday, came in the wake of Saadi's statements to the French press criticizing the regime and President Zeroual and disclosing the questions he intended to ask President Zeroual. After the cancellation, Saeed Saadi intensified

his attack on the presidency in a statement to the newspaper EL WATAN yesterday.

President Zeroual's decision to cancel his meeting with Saadi represented a new step in the regime's way of dealing with the forces opposed to dialogue which had enjoyed the regime's privileges and criticized it at the same time.

Many observers believe that Saadi and his party had for many years acted in accordance with the instructions of the Algerian authorities.

The cancellation of the meeting can be seen as the beginning of the crystallization of Zeroual's personal style of running the presidency.

Some forces are still calling for the formation of militias and abandonment of the dialogue idea. The [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] has claimed that the regime was behind the assassination of the two female students who, it said, had veils on and were killed to instill fear. In a statement issued yesterday, the FIS also said that over the past few days the security forces killed 82 civilians in Blida and 120 civilians between Mouftah and Sidi Moussa in addition to others in various parts of Algeria.

Some of the regime's circles are already talking about tangible results of the general violent security offensive launched by the military forces two weeks ago. They maintain that the number of assassinations and victims has dropped significantly since the offensive began.

That general offensive, however, has failed to put an end to violence, not even in the capital where an Army captain was killed the day before yesterday by unknown gunmen.

Egypt

Musa Expresses Sorrow Over 'Afula Car Bomb Attack

TA0604165494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed sorrow about the 'Afula car bomb attack. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports the Egyptian minister talked by telephone with his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres. The two also discussed recent developments in the peace process.

Spanish Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC0504144194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana arrived in Cairo today on an official two-day visit, during which he will head his country's delegation to the meeting of the Joint Higher Egyptian-Spanish Committee. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will head the Egyptian side to the meeting, which will begin later today. Talks between the two sides began on the level of experts yesterday.

During the visit, the Spanish foreign minister will meet with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to discuss Arab-Spanish cooperation. He will also meet with a number of Palestinian officials to review the latest developments in the peace talks and the role that Spain and the European Community can play to promote these talks.

Meets Foreign Minister

NC0604074394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak will receive Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana tomorrow.

Official Egyptian-Spanish talks were held at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa chaired the Egyptian delegation and Solana led the Spanish side.

The two delegations reviewed the situation in the Middle East, emphasizing the need to boost the peace process and surmount any obstacles barring its progress.

The two foreign ministers stressed the importance of furthering cooperation among the Mediterranean countries and expressed a wish to develop Egyptian-Spanish relations.

The Spanish foreign minister stated that the talks dealt with international issues, notably the situation in the Middle East. He said his country is committed to the regional peace operation, particularly as the process began with a conference held in Madrid. He pointed out that Egypt is playing a major role in achieving security and stability in the region. On the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said Spain and the EU hope to end the fighting and bring stability to that country.

Confers With Arab League Chief

NC0604103694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who is currently visiting Egypt. After the meeting, Solana said that he and 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the latest developments in the peace process in the Middle East. He expressed his country's interest in the achievement of stability in the region. He noted that he reviewed the results of the seminar on cooperation in the Mediterranean which concluded recently in Cairo. They also discussed ways of strengthening ties and broadening cooperation between the Arab League and the European Union. Solana described his talks with 'Abd-al-Majid as friendly and candid. He said that he extended an invitation to Dr.

'Abd-al-Majid to visit Spain for further discussions and exchange of views on issues of common concern to both parties.

Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0604123394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana at the Presidential Palace at noon today. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Spanish ambassador in Cairo also attended the meeting. After the meeting, Musa said that the Spanish foreign minister conveyed a message to President Mubarak from Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez dealing with bilateral ties, the peace process, Spain's position on it, and the situation in the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Europe. He noted that the joint Egyptian-Spanish committee meetings concluded. He said: We studied bilateral ties in the cultural, economic, and trade fields. He expressed his belief that relations between Egypt and Spain are steadily growing.

Solana expressed his happiness to have met with President Mubarak. He noted that he discussed with President Mubarak developments in the peace process and the situation in the Mediterranean. He said that a conference on cooperation among Mediterranean countries will be held in Egypt on 1 June. He said that he conveyed an invitation to President Mubarak from the king of Spain to visit Madrid. He said: We hope that we will be able to set a date for the visit in the near future. He noted that his visit to Egypt was extremely successful, noting that he discussed cooperation in various fields. He said views were identical between Egypt and Spain regarding the Middle East and the Mediterranean region and solutions to numerous international problems that concern Spain and Egypt.

Asked if he had brought new ideas for the Middle East, Solana said: I hope that by 13 April an agreement will have been reached and that the peace process will proceed in a sound framework. He said that Spain is committed to helping further the peace process, noting the major role Egypt is playing to establish peace in the region.

Ministerial Meeting Planned

LD0604172494 Madrid RNE International in Spanish 1300 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Today, 6 April, Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana met Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, to whom he handed an invitation to visit Spain from King Juan Carlos. Solana is also due to meet PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo.

Solana and Mubarak decided to hold an informal ministerial meeting of 10 Mediterranean countries next July in the city of Alexandria.

Today in Cairo, Solana also met Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the general secretary of the Arab League, with whom he discussed the Middle East peace process, the dialogue among Mediterranean people, and the situation in the Arab countries.

Regarding the meeting with 'Arafat, Solana has repeated at every opportunity during his trip to Egypt Spain's willingness to help toward a successful conclusion of the peace process. This is the main purpose of his meeting today with the Palestinian leader.

Leaves Cairo After One-Day Visit

NC0604144494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana left Cairo today after a one-day visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. He also chaired the annual meeting of the Joint Spanish-Egyptian Committee, which has been meeting annually since it was formed in 1988.

During the visit Solana signed one agreement on protecting investments and another on avoiding double taxation.

Ambassador Hasan al-'Ujayzi, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department, saw him off at the airport.

Minister Leaves for IMF Talks in Washington

NC0604103994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0846 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Ghali, minister of state in the cabinet for international cooperation affairs, left Cairo today for Washington to join the Egyptian economic delegation led by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister. Dr. Ghali will participate in the Egyptian delegation meetings with senior officials of the World Bank and the IMF to prepare the final report that will be submitted to the World Bank management in mid April.

Details of U.S. Commander's 'Secret' Visit Noted

NC0604104894 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn]

[Text] Cairo this week received U.S. and German military officials, who paid separate visits with a view to increasing the number of countries that will participate in the Bright Star exercises next year. General Joseph Hoare, commander of the U.S. Central Command, arrived in Cairo on a secret visit. He was followed by General Klaus Naumann [name as published], German chief of staff, whose visit was announced.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the U.S. official's talks in Egypt dealt with broadening the scope of participation in the Bright Star maneuvers to include, in addition to Egypt and the United States, Germany, Britain, and

France. Following Egypt's approval, the German official came to put the final touches on what had already been agreed upon regarding his country's participation in the maneuvers. Germany hopes to gain from these exercises training expertise in the face of the Islamic movements in North Africa.

According to information, Egypt's approval to increase the number of Western states participating in the exercises was conditional on the participation of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Egypt also wanted the exercise to be general and not directed at facing any regional threat, unlike the previous Bright Star exercises, which were directed against what was called the Libyan threat!

Explaining the benefits that the participation of Germany, France, Britain, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait in these exercises could provide, the Egyptian side claimed that it would stress the continued reliance of the Western allies on Egyptian facilities! It will also enable Egypt to get better acquainted with the combat methods of the advanced states and allow the military commanders from the participating states to get together, which could convince the United States of the importance of Egypt's participation in safeguarding Gulf security! This step, officials claim, will prompt the United States to supply Egypt with its military needs.

AL-SHA'B has learned that Britain's participation in the exercises depends on resolving the problems related to the naval training protocol signed by Cairo and London. The British insist that the British military personnel training on Egyptian territory not be subject to Egyptian law and refuses reciprocal treatment for Egyptian military on British territory.

AL-SHA'B Chief Editor, Reporter Interrogated, Released

NC0404202094 Cairo MENA in English 2000 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 4 (MENA)—Majdi Ahmad Husayn, chief editor of AL-SHA'B newspaper, organ of the opposition Labour Party, and 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn, an editor in the same paper, were released by the prosecution after being interrogated in connection with a complaint filed against them by the head of the Heliopolis Company for Chemicals.

The paper had accused the company head of allowing relatives to submit tenders and using the company's potentials in the service of his family members in violation of the law.

The two journalists asserted that they have documents proving that and pledged to put them forward on Saturday.

Mufti on Jerusalem, Normalization, Violence

NC0704123394 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Apr 94, p 6

[Interview with Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of the Republic, by Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz; place and date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Pope Shanudah, in an interview with AL-'ARABI, has called for a meeting with al-Azhar's grand imam to discuss ways to liberate the Arab sanctities in Jerusalem. Along the same line, al-Azhar's imam called on Muslims to work toward liberating these sanctities. What is your comment?

[Tantawi] I support what both the al-Azhar imam and Pope Shanudah said in this regard. I am fully prepared to cooperate and coordinate with them to discuss ways to regain our sanctities in Palestine. I strongly support this call, because Jerusalem occupies a special place in our hearts. It is the place Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, visited [in his night journey]. We all have to work together for its liberation. This does not mean that we should ignore the other religions' rights in Jerusalem. The Islamic shari'ah reaches out with peace to all those who wish to live in peace with us, but God has ordered us to defend ourselves if we are attacked or oppressed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What do you think are the ways to liberate Jerusalem from the Zionist enemy?

[Tantawi] There are several ways and means, some political, religious, and economic and some others that relate to our Palestinian brothers, who are primarily concerned. If the efforts are combined and the intentions are sincere, we will regain our right, God willing, because no right is lost if someone pursues it.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The U.S. President's recent acknowledgment of Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity has aroused overwhelming Arab and Islamic anger. What is your comment?

[Tantawi] First of all, Jerusalem must be Arab and Islamic in flesh and blood. Neither the United States nor anybody else can change Jerusalem's historic status. I support what Dr. Usamah al- Baz has stated; namely, that only Muslims and Arabs can settle this problem. But I repeat that this does not mean that we should deny other religions the right to practice their rites in Jerusalem and to have their share, proceeding from the Prophet's saying: They are entitled to what we are entitled and they owe what we owe. This is precisely the status that Jerusalem has lived under for centuries under Arab sovereignty. Before it was usurped, it was an Arab holy city in which the rights of all religions were safeguarded.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The al-Azhar imam and Pope Shanudah have emphasized that the Hebron massacre resulted from the weakness of the international institutions and that retribution is obligatory. What do you think?

[Tantawi] The Hebron massacre is a calamity and constitutes one of the meanest acts of treachery. I believe that it must not go unpunished, because all heavenly messages endorse retribution, which is a necessity, particularly for such an appalling crime.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Do you believe that the massacre has exposed the falsehood of the alleged peace with the Zionist enemy?

[Tantawi] Undoubtedly it has cast a dark shadow on the Middle East peace process and made it more difficult. At any rate, this makes it necessary for us to struggle [mujahadat] with our enemies, because we have a right to look after ourselves and defend ourselves relentlessly until death.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There are calls for normalization with Israel in different ways, such as pilgrimage [to sacred sites], which Pope Shanudah has rejected. What do you say about such calls?

[Tantawi] First of all, let met tell you that I believe in the exchange of benefits among people, because man cannot live alone without cooperating with those around him. States, too, cannot survive without cooperating with other states. Thus, we welcome any exchange of benefits, but this does not mean that we must fall prey to deceit or that, under the slogan of narrow benefits, we should get involved in things that may harm our entity, beliefs, and sanctities by our enemies and that may bring evil to our country and religion. Damned are those benefits that may lead us to such an abyss.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The Jews claim that they are God's chosen people. What do you think of this claim, particularly since your doctorate degree was based on the "Israelites in the Koran"?

[Tantawi] There is nothing called God's chosen people in the Islamic shari'ah, the Koran, or the sunnah [tradition] of the Prophet. Faith and goodness are the only criteria for judging any people or human group. This is what the Koran has emphasized. As to the reference in the Koran that they [the Jews] were given preference over all other people, the context relates to a specific time and place when the Jews were committed to heavenly laws. Later on, no people were so strongly vilified in the Koran as the Jews.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How true are reports that Israelis were in the Fatwa Office [which passes religious rulings] (during a conference on religions attended by university professors, physicians, and clerics from the three heavenly religions)?

[Tantawi] I stress to you that the matter was nothing more than an ordinary conference. I did not know about the conference in advance; Dr. Jamal Madi Abu-al-'Azayim, in whom I have full confidence, told me about it. I do not see any reason why we should discuss and scrutinize the identities of those who attended the conference. But I emphasize to you that I did not know that those people were among the conferees. When I am asked to emphasize this, I do not mean to embarrass anyone; I only want to clarify the truth. However, I am fully convinced that the Israelis who entered the Fatwa Office by way of the conference did not, in any way, harm the office or what it symbolizes. If they had tried to do any harm, we would have stopped them and struck back more forcefully, and we have the means and ways to do it.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Some believe that the conference was an attempt to drag the Fatwa Office into the quagmire of normalization [of relations with Israel], especially that the al-Azhar imam has announced his full rejection of cooperation with Israel in any field.

[Tantawi] First, I am not with or against anyone; everybody is entitled to his opinion. But I can tell you that when the Fatwa Office is dragged into normalization or other things as an attempt to harm my religion or my country, then I will be available to be called to account at any time. But I believe in a principle that says: Do not say who visited you, but say what you told him. I want to tell you something else: When President Anwar al-Sadat visited Israel, why did the Israelis not say that those who received him were betrayers because they allowed the man to infiltrate Israel? It is not logical to raise these accusations because somebody visited us and in the context I explained. Accusations of infiltration, treason, and so on should not be leveled in this way. In short, I believe that the courageous man is the one who faces the enemy, whether in the enemy's house or in his own. Retreat is a kind of cowardliness that does not find its way to Egypt's mufti.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How do you view the growing violence in society, and how do you envision the way out of this full national crisis?

[Tantawi] Any act that horrifies innocent and peaceful people, no matter who perpetrates it, is a criminal and inhuman act rejected by religion and the Koran. As to the solution, I call for the cohesiveness and solidarity of society and individuals in an attempt to establish what is right and abolish what is wrong. There should be objectivity, honesty, and flexibility. We must proceed from a spirit of love for the homeland. If such cohesiveness is displayed, I believe God will guide us to the best solution to this problem because God certainly rewards those who do good. Security treatment alone is not enough; all institutions and bodies must demonstrate cohesiveness, as I said.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Many intellectuals and other people concerned with the phenomenon of violence believe that democracy is the main solution to this problem. They are urging further democracy. Do you agree with them?

[Tantawi] I personally support this demand strongly and persistently. I demand further democracy because

democracy begets more democracy and awareness, justice begets justice, good dialogue begets good understanding, and the good word has its good impact on enemies and friends.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] This leads us to the so-called national dialogue. How does Your Eminence view this dialogue?

[Tantawi] I believe dialogue, especially between wise men, is the best way to persuade. I welcome dialogue as long as it is meant as a search for the truth regarding disputed issues. The Fatwa Office is open to all people, rulers and ruled, young and old, poor and rich for dialogue and discussion on issues with religious dimensions within our capabilities. I fully support and welcome dialogue over any issue with a view to reaching the truth and serving the country. But I do not favor dialogue that aims at boastfulness, publicity, stubbornness, and so on. Dialogue should be held over issues about which people have different views with the purpose of finding the truth; it should not be meant for showing off.

Islamic Groups' Conditions for Ending Violence Given

NC0704080094 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Apr 94, p 4

[Text] Lawyer Muntasir al-Zayyat announced at the Lawyers Association last week the conditions of the political violence groups, better known as the "Islamic Group" and the "al-Jihad Group," for ending the acts of violence in Egypt, which al-Zayyat described as "reactions" to the authority's violence.

Al-Zayyat called for giving the "religious groups" freedom to express their opinions peacefully, unconditionally releasing all members of these groups who are detained, stopping referring defendants to military courts, and enabling what he described as "Islamic preachers" to practice and express their views through all means.

Al-Zayyat, a lawyer representing defendants belonging to the religious current, claimed that there is no animosity between the "Islamic groups" and Copts and that they are not against tourism in Egypt. He justified the recent bombings by saying that they were meant only to put pressure on the government. Al-Zayyat's remarks came in a seminar organized by the Youth Committee of the Lawyers Association.

AL-SHA'B Reporter on Trial for Reporting U.S. Arms Sales

NC0704143094 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 7 (AFP)—A journalist working for an opposition fundamentalist newspaper went on trial in a military court near Cairo Thursday for writing an article on US arms sales to Egypt, sources at the newspaper said.

'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn, a journalist with the AL-SHA'B newspaper, was accused of "revealing military secrets and publishing information liable to provoke unrest."

The sources said Abu-Husayn was summoned by the military prosecutor Monday and questioned by military intelligence officers without lawyers or union representatives being present.

He was held at the Haikstep military base 30 kilometres (19 miles) north of Cairo and appeared before a military court there Thursday.

The prosecutor said an article written by Abu-Husayn on March 22 was based on US press allegations that retired Egyptian generals received millions of dollars' worth of commissions from US companies in exchange for arms contracts.

Citing US newspaper reports, Abu-Husayn said one of the generals, 'Ali Mansur "has close links with President Husni Mubarak."

Editor Killed After Publishing Caricatures

NC0604183994 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] Ahmad al-Baradi'i, editor of the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, was wounded yesterday morning by a bullet fired by an unknown assailant while returning to his home in the city of Qalyub. He was taken to Qalyub Central Hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds.

Caricatures by al-Barad'i assailing terrorism had been published.

Police Kill One 'Terrorist;' Arrest One in Chase

NC0404151094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—A dangerous terrorist was killed this afternoon and another terrorist was arrested during a chase in the al-Munib area of al-Jizah on the Cairo-Upper Egypt agricultural road. The two were riding in a small car.

Acting on information that terrorist elements were in the area, a force from the State Security Intelligence Department headed there and arrested a terrorist. Another terrorist was killed during the exchange of fire. According to initial reports, there were no casualties among the security forces or citizens in the area during the exchange of fire.

Security Raid Thwarts Planned 'Terrorist' Attacks

NC0404151694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—MENA has learned that detectives from the State Security Department arrested several terrorist extremists in al-Jizah's al-Munib district

today. State Security investigators earlier obtained accurate information that several terrorists in the al-Munib area were planning terrorist acts. A special unit of the State Security forces stormed their hideout, arrested them, and thwarted their planned attacks.

Three 'Terrorists' Killed in Asyut Clash

NC0404162594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 4 Apr (MENA)—Three terrorists were killed today in a clash with security forces and citizens in Asyut. The clash took place on the al-Ma'abidah Island in Markaz Manfalut, Asyut Governorate.

Several citizens clashed with three people, strangers to the island, who had weapons hidden under their clothes. When the three noticed that the citizens were in pursuit, they opened fire on them. A crowd gathered and chased them, preventing their escape. One of the three terrorists was wounded [as received] in an exchange of fire with citizens carrying licensed weapons. The citizens apprehended the other two terrorists to hand them over to the security forces who arrived on the island. When the two realized the security forces were approaching, they tried to escape, prompting the policemen to shoot them. They died instantly. The terrorists were found in possession of an automatic rifle and a pistol. The pistol belonged to a noncommissioned police officer who was assassinated last year. The Manfalut prosecutor started an investigation into the incident.

Said Leaders of Military Wing

NC0404190694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—A security official has stated that the three terrorists killed earlier today on al-Ma'abidah Island in Asyut were all leading cadres in the military wing of the terrorist organization in Asyut.

The first terrorist, Sahsuh Muhammad Muhanna, a former employee in the Modern Clothing Company in Dayrut and a member of the organization's military wing, took part in many acts of violence in the past two years. A forged identification card bearing the name Karam Maurice was found on him.

The second terrorist, Muhammad Nadi 'Abd-al-'Al Darwish, is identified as a leading cadre in the military wing of the same organization. He is listed as a suspect in the assassination of noncommissioned officer Sayyid Qurani Hasan, two conscripts in the Dayrut railway station police, and two secret policemen from the Dayrut Supply Detectives Department.

The third terrorist, Khalid Muhammad Quraysh, is listed as a suspect in the assassination of noncommissioned officer Hilal Marzuq; Quraysh carried out the assassination personally. He took part in many acts of violence in various areas in Asyut.

The official noted that the weapons found with the terrorists included an automatic rifle, a Hulwan pistol bearing a police logo, and a 1.5 kg explosive charge of the same type seized from terrorist elements arrested on 30 March.

The prosecution has been notified to launch an investigation.

Six 'Terrorists' Surrender to Security Organs

NC0704132394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, 7 Apr (MENA)—Asyut Governor Samih al-Sa'id has praised local leaders who helped in the surrender of a number of extremist leaders to security organs. He said that these extremists have repented and returned to the right path in society.

His remarks came after six extremist terrorists voluntarily surrendered themselves to the security organs in Asyut Governorate after becoming convinced that the wrong ideas they believed in were corrupt.

The six repentant terrorists are: Rushdi Sayyid Muhammad, Hasan 'Abd-al-Rasul, Hasan Ibrahim Mahmud, 'Abd-al-Badi' Rashwan, 'Abd-al-Halim 'Ali 'Abd-al-Halim, and al-Qadhdhafi 'Abd-al-Raziq 'Ali.

The Asyut governor was present at a religious celebration attended by more than 10,000 people from the governorate's various towns and villages. They strongly denounced extremism and violence and declared solidarity with the security organs in the confrontation with this phenomenon that is alien to Egyptian society.

'Terrorist,' Soldier Killed in Shoot-Out 7 Apr

NC0704203494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Suhaj, 7 Apr (MENA)—Soldier Nadi Muhammad, 20, from the Central Security Forces, was martyred today during a shoot-out in Markaz Tima in the Suhaj Governorate between a group from the police force and some fugitive terrorist elements. Terrorist 'Abd-al-Hadi Haqq was killed in the accident.

During the shoot-out, Captain Mustafa Muhammad Ahmad, assistant at the Markaz Tima investigations department, and soldier Muhammad Mutawi' received light injuries.

A group from the department for executing verdicts in Markaz Tima was executing verdicts against defendants sentenced in various cases. While performing its duty in Tima, the group was surprised by bullets directed on it by terrorists. It dealt with the situation immediately, killing one terrorist. The soldier was martyred and the Markaz Tima investigations assistant and another soldier were slightly injured.

The Suhaj Security Department command and the various investigation organs went to the scene to inspect it. The prosecution has been informed to proceed with investigations.

Sudan

Al-Bashir: U.S. Envoy 'Did Not Touch on Anything New'

EA0704212194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has affirmed the cohesion of the internal front and its firm stand against all challenges facing the nation's march. During his meeting today with the leaders of information and press bodies at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the president discussed the public's understanding of the revolution's programs and his perception of its achievements in various fields, particularly with regard to the security situation.

His excellency said recent attempts to cast doubt on the revolution's leadership by some people was due to personal reasons or to agents from foreign quarters. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said any conspirator who tried to hinder the Sudanese people would not be able to achieve his aims, pointing out that the revolution is proceeding despite all challenges.

The president of the Republic touched on the talks he held recently with U.S. envoy Madeleine Albright. He said President Clinton's envoy did not touch on anything new in the talks. He pointed out that she commented on the situation and the U.S. accusations against Sudan with regard to human rights, terrorism and relief. We submitted, during the talks, Sudan's stance towards the U.S. Administration, he said, adding that the contentious issue, in essence, was the issue of Islam.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir described the meeting as the start of a serious dialogue between the two countries. He confirmed Sudan's desire to continue the dialogue, so that relations between Sudan and the United States would be based on a clear foundation. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Discusses Reconciliation Talks, Other Issues

JN0104075694 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 28 Mar 94 pp 30-31

[Interview with President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir by Kamal Hamid in Nairobi, date not given]

[Excerpt] [Hamid] Do you expect to attain peace after Nairobi's current negotiations?

[Al-Bashir] Yes, we have come for this purpose. Our delegation is under Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Council, who chaired all the previous rounds of negotiations. We are convinced of the need to depend on what was discussed in the past. We love peace and hate war. We are aware that the other side is the same. However, this does not prevent the existence of a group whose interests are linked with this war. We know of the existence of regional, international, and, regrettably, local forces that believe that the continuation of the war will realize their desire to remove the current government by putting pressure on us and spreading rumors.

[Hamid] You are speaking of international pressures. Certain circles indicate the possibility that you will offer concessions.

[Al-Bashir] They are harboring an illusion. We believe in God and in fate, whether for good or for worse. We are aware that nothing will afflict us unless it is ordained for us. They themselves are aware of the false allegations that we attack civilians and prevent aid from reaching the affected people, who are Sudanese citizens. We gather aid for them from all the people and we provide transportation through the Nile as well as by railway and by air. All organizations working in this field can testify to the truth of this.

I reiterate that we have principles. We will not relinquish them. These principles have been accepted by our people, who realize the size of the external plotting. They have announced their readiness to meet every eventuality. In alluding to certain local forces, I meant some Sudanese citizens from the opposition who reside in hotels abroad. They are pushing colonialism in their own country in order to regain the power they think belongs to them forever.

[Hamid] Did it not occur to you to negotiate with opposition figures from the north, who are both inside the country and abroad?

[Al-Bashir] We negotiate over whatever advances Sudan's interests. If you are asking about leaders of the banned parties, we have asked them to take an active part in shouldering responsibilities. But they have their eyes set on power. For evidence, watch their meetings and coordination with Western forces that do not wish the country well. Such people think that power in the country is a cake to be carved up and that being in office should bring with it wealth and control of the country's resources. The Ministry of Trade used to be coveted, given the privileges it brings with it. This ministry had to be divided into two sections. One was for internal trade. It was entrusted to the Democratic Unionist Party so party members who were in business would exploit it for their own benefit. The Ministry of Foreign Trade usually went to the Ummah Party and was handled by Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi. All the Sudanese will testify to his practices at the ministry. We now view government as an exercise in power-sharing and a burden rather than a cake. The Ministry of Trade is not important any more. We have scrapped the import system licenses altogether and the licenses are now handled by commercial banks.

We now consider the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and Irrigation Ministry to be the most important. This is to promote the exploitation of the country's resources and self-reliance. We have achieved a good measure of success on that front, which has earned us the West's hostility.

[Hamid] What is your assessment of the Arab community's reaction to the challenges facing Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] Regrettably, a unified Arab stand is completely absent. However, we still hope that Arab reconciliation will be restored and the Arab atmosphere cleared. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Egypt, Situation in South

NC0504152594 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Mar 94 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih by Sumayyah Ahmad in Cairo "during the meetings of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council at the Arab League headquarters"]

[Text] [Ahmad] What are the developments in the south?

[Abu-Salih] Let us return to May of last year, when a ranking Sudanese delegation travelled to Abuja to hold talks with Garang, who did not attend the meetings. He sent his deputy Musa al-Bashir instead. Despite this move indicating his derision and unwillingness to establish peace, we continued discussing the basic issues for three weeks. We found a solution to around 80 percent of these issues.

At the same time, there was another Sudanese delegation negotiating in Nairobi with a delegation from the United Faction. We made some positive progress. But developments in Nigeria then made it difficult to continue negotiations.

In September of last year, the (EANGAD) [abbreviation, parenthesis as published] group in East Africa proposed mediation to form a committee from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, and Kenya. It held many meetings on the presidential or foreign ministerial level in the different places. But there was no clear objective behind these meetings. We were made to understand that negotiations are the objective so that EANGAD does not negotiate on their or our behalf.

I went to Nairobi last month to confirm our adherence to and welcoming of mediation on condition that a negotiating schedule be set out, that negotiations be direct, and that there be a specific working agenda. The Nairobi meeting was held on 8 March. President al-Bashir traveled on 17 March and met President Moi. We believe this was a good beginning. Agreement was reached on a second round of talks on 15 May in accordance with the old schedule. We believe we need to build on what has been achieved in the past, when agreement was reached on many issues. We also believe that future meetings should take place to discuss the other problems.

[Ahmad] Recently, some proposals were made on the right of the south to self-determination. Was this issue discussed in the negotiations?

[Abu-Salih] Not at all. They proposed some ideas on the working agenda, the most important of which was to add a new item, the right to self-determination. We rejected this totally. They are nothing but a group of rebels forming a minority. The reason we do not talk to them is not because they carry arms, but because we believe that the solution always lies in dialogue. We have no intention of deciding the issue militarily, although this is our duty and mission. There is no power that can prevent us from being flexible. These people are not talking in the name of the south.

[Ahmad] You have often pointed out the existence of foreign circles supporting the separatists. Who are these circles?

[Abu-Salih] There are American and British circles. The two governments are not too distant from each other. There are many seminars being held in the two countries. The most recent one was held in an American research center in October. It called for the unity of the factions. Congressmen attended. Another seminar was held in the British House of Lords, although none of the lords attended. The topic of the seminar was the right to self-determination in the south.

The archbishop of Canterbury and many other figures and officials visited the south without the permission of the Sudanese Government.

[Ahmad] The Arab foreign ministers issued a resolution at the end of their recent meeting rejecting every attempt to divide Sudan. Is this stance considered enough for Sudan?

[Abu-Salih] Undoubtedly, it was a supportive stance, beyond our expectations, when the Arab brothers competed to highlight and confirm their country's position on the unity of Sudan, especially Egypt's stance. We do not wish to polarize the Arab nation or seek military or material support. But we wanted to warn the foreign sides that there is Arab moral support for the unity of Sudan's territory.

[Ahmad] This leads us to Sudanese-Egyptian relations.

[Abu-Salih] The differences between the two governments are not beyond resolving if there is confidence between us. We are still waiting for Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa [to come to Khartoum]. I do not believe we will need many meetings between us. I must point out that Egypt's stance on the south is honorable and responsible, without anyone asking it to be so.

[Ahmad] How do you explain Sudan's stance opposing Egypt's joining the preferential trade agreement for the countries of East and South Africa?

[Abu-Salih] That is not true. Countries other than Sudan objected. I did not attend this meeting.

[Ahmad] But Sudan did object?

[Abu-Salih] Yes. But two other countries are very close to Egypt. I do not wish to discuss this topic.

[Ahmad] In what way does expelling Sudan from the IMF affect the economy in Sudan?

[Abu-Salih] Primarily, the IMF stance on Sudan is a political stance, not a scientific one.

NC0604134694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Apr 94 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Arafah] Is there concrete evidence that Israel is supplying the southern rebels with weapons?

[Abu-Salih] It is a fact that Israeli weapons are reaching the rebels. We have had evidence in the past. Israel has been involved in supporting the rebellion since the sixties. All the rebels' weapons originate in Israel. The incident in which a plane loaded with weapons was headed for Uganda is just one aspect of Israel's support for the rebels.

['Arafah] Have you agreed with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on a date for resumption of the talks on Hala'ib? Why have negotiations been postponed for so long?

[Abu-Salih] We have been waiting for Foreign Minister Musa since September. We have sent him an invitation but he has not come. I told him this when he visited me (in the hotel). No agreement was reached with him on a date. However, we are waiting for him at any time.

Regarding the postponement of the talks, why don't you ask Egypt about this postponement? Why don't you ask Foreign Minister Musa this question? We have agreed to proceed in accordance with what Presidents Mubarak and al-Bashir agreed upon—namely, to draw up a framework for relations between the two countries. We have not been negligent and we do not want to blame anyone. Therefore, we did not want to submit the issue of Hala'ib to the Arab League meetings. We are still waiting for 'Amr Musa to honor us with a visit!

['Arafah] It has been said that there is U.S. support for the rebels in the south. On the other hand, Sudanese Foreign Ministry officials have stated that they are convinced that the United States does not want to topple the present regime. Is there a contradiction in the stand of the United States?

[Abu-Salih] We take everyone at their word. The United States, according to its ambassador in Khartoum, says it does not support the rebels and does not do anything to topple the government. Secret actions by other nonofficial U.S. quarters (for example intelligence) is another matter!

['Arafah] It has been reiterated that there is a new dialogue between the United States and Sudan. For this purpose, the U.S. President has appointed a special representative to Sudan. He will also send his UN ambassador to Sudan at the end of this month.

[Abu-Salih] Dialogue with the United States started a long time ago. U.S. Secretary Christopher referred to this dialogue even though Sudan is included on the list of the states that support terrorism. Recently, there has been the impression or signals that there is hope that this dialogue will be continued. For our part, we have already stated that we need balanced relations with the United States. I will meet with President Clinton's envoy on 31 March. She will carry a message from Clinton to al-Bashir. I believe that this mission will help promote dialogue between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Ummah Party Leader Reportedly 'Rearrested'

NC0704142594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—The Sudanese Ummah Party has announced that the Sudanese security agencies rearrested al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the party and former prime minister, 24 hours after releasing him, without giving any reasons.

The party said in a statement in Cairo today that the day before yesterday, security authorities asked al-Mahdi about the party's activities at home and abroad, his 'Id al-Fitr sermon, and his continuing refusal to reconcile with the ruling regime.

The statement said: "The arrest reaffirms the confusion and tension experienced by the regime after losing every justification for survival."

The statement appealed to the world community, human rights organizations, and Arab and non-Arab media to pressure the Sudanese regime to release al-Mahdi and all Sudanese prisoners immediately.

Kuwait

Cabinet Reshuffle Believed Imminent

PM0604144894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p1

[Report by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri: "Kuwaiti Cabinet Reshuffle To Include Oil and Interior Ministries"]

[Text] Kuwait—There was an atmosphere of anticipation and expectation in Kuwait yesterday as the countdown began for the announcement of the names to be included in the new cabinet. There is all kinds of speculation in various circles with everyone expressing his own views as to who will be appointed and who will be dismissed, but the final decision rests with Prime Minister and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah who is still holding consultations on this matter.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from sources close to Shaykh Sa'd that the expected cabinet reshuffle will be ready within the next few days and may be announced Saturday.

The sources added that the cabinet reshuffle will cover the ministries of oil, interior, electricity, works, communications, and housing but will not affect the other main ministries such as the foreign, defense, and information ministries.

The sources also said that some new names have been tipped for important ministries. They include Shaykh Jabir 'Abdallah al-Jabir al-Sabah, the former cabinet affairs minister who held the post at the time of the occupation and liberation and who also held other posts such as governor of al-Ahmadi and governor of Hawalli. Other prominent names include al-Ahmadi Governor Shaykh Muhammad al-Khalid al-Sabah and former Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Yemen

Oman Talks Failure Brings 'Pessimism' in Aden, Sanaa

PM0604112094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 94 p1

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Failure of the Meeting of the Two 'Ali's Increases War Possibilities"]

[Text] London—Pessimism prevails in both Sanaa and Aden about the chances of an early settlement of the Yemeni crisis. Political observers expect a divisive war between the armed forces of the north and the south this month because the talks held the day before yesterday in Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman failed to resolve the differences between the General People's Congress [GPC], led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and its ally the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] on the one hand and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], of which Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid is secretary general, on the other.

The YSP, however, has made a point of underscoring the importance of the Omani role and the continuation of efforts to find a solution to the Yemeni problem. A YSP official source has denied that al-Bid played down "the positive and effective role played by Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id." The source reaffirmed the importance "of the mediation of the brothers in Oman to preserve Yemen's unity."

News agencies quoted one of the delegation members accompanying al-Bid as saying that "the mediation of Sultan Qabus brought nothing new and the Yemeni crisis is still continuing." He expressed appreciation for the Omani role, of which all Yemenis are proud.

Yemeni political sources attribute the failure of the meeting to the "lack of adequate preparation for it" because the Omani leadership simply seized the opportunity of President Salih's visit to Oman and asked al-Bid to stop over on his way back from the United Arab Emirates [UAE] at the end of his visit to Abu-Dhabi. Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said that the meeting succeeded in achieving some relaxation at the personal level between Salih and al-Bid but that this remains to be translated into a relaxation between the ruling coalition parties in Yemen.

The Omani minister said that the efforts were focused on preventing any military confrontations or civil war in Yemen. Yemeni sources, however, say that the meeting confirmed the conviction of both sides that "any move by one side toward the other to ease the crisis would be futile" and that military confrontation cannot be avoided.

The sources said that the Joint Military Committee has begun to terminate its task of separating the northern and southern armed forces and that the Jordanian and Omani officers are currently considering returning home, having themselves failed to accomplish their mission. They confirmed that the two parties to the conflict, namely the YSP and the GPC, imported $200 million worth of arms and ammunition between them during the month of March. The sources also said that the Yemeni president left the Salalah meeting angry and threatened to use force.

The two parties to the conflict are now trading accusations about the failure of the Oman meeting. YSP sources say that the cause of the failure was the intransigence of President Salih and his aids and also of their ally in the ruling coalition (meaning the YRG, led by House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar), whereas GPC and YRG sources say that the failure to resolve the crisis was a result of disagreement within the YSP itself, preventing the party from taking specific stands.

Although YSP sources deny such a disagreement, it seems that meetings such as the ones held in Amman and Salalah have minimized the chances of using the Jordanian and Omani cards again to settle the crisis. That only leaves the Egyptian card with Syrian participation and Gulf support.

It is hoped that this card will be used very carefully through submission of specific plans for the settlement of the crisis acceptable to all Yemeni parties within the framework of the state of unity, even if that means applying the federal system. The Yemeni president and Shaykh al-Ahmar still oppose such a system but may find no alternative to it in the end.

House Issues Statement on 'Crisis,' Tasks Committees

JN0704153494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The House of Representatives met this morning under brother Muhammad [second name indistinct] al-Majid, member of the House of Representatives speakership.

The house heard and approved the minutes of its previous session. The house then discussed the latest military developments and repercussions of the crisis, including recent events in Dhamar. In light of this, the house delegated the Security and Defense Council and some of the brother members of the council to make field visits to acquaint themselves with the military deterioration in Abyan, Shabwah, [placename indistinct], and Dhamar. The committee can request any information from the Defense and Interior Ministries or any other concerned body. The committee must present its report to the house as soon as it expeditiously accomplishes this field mission.

As for the House of Representative's (?stand) toward the crisis and its repercussions, the house issued the following decision:

As it follows crisis developments, the House of Representatives is looking with hope and optimism toward all the positive aspects and serious steps to reunite institutions. The house views with much pain and regret those negative aspects and acts that harm Yemen and our unity.

Proceeding from the house's concern about performing its duty with full responsibility, the house has decided the following:

First, to reaffirm the House of Representative's statement on the crisis issued on 5 November 1993, in terms of adhering to national constants, foremost of which is Yemeni unity. The house rejects every formula that would go back or encroach on this unity. Whoever relinquishes any part of this unity will be accused of high treason.

The house delegates its permanent committees to follow up the implementation of the accord document based on its decision issued on 27 March 1994, especially the following committees:

A. The Defense and Security Committee will follow the security and military issue, especially in terms of withdrawing military units from the outskirts, deploying them in areas with vital targets and the strategic defense requirements of the Republic of Yemen, as well as to prevent other forces' deployment or movement, except within the framework of the process of redeployment and merger according to the accord document. The committee will start work today.

B. The Financial Affairs Committee will follow up the budget and will make sure sovereign revenues reach the Yemeni Central Bank.

C. The Public Liberties and Human Rights Committee will follow up what was delegated to it previously.

D. The Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee will implement the law on procedures to try senior state officials based on Articles 101 and 111 of the Constitution.

E. The Media Committee will follow up media deterioration.

Second, the house delegates the speakership and bloc leaders to follow up crisis political developments and to brief the house on these developments.

Fourth [as heard], the House of Representatives hopes that 27 April 1994 will be a day of national salvation in which the entire situation becomes stable, all crises and their repercussions end, and all government institutions reunite in Sanaa, the capital of the country of unity.

Fifth, all the state's executive bodies and their leadership at all levels should shoulder their responsibilities. The crisis cannot be allowed to obstruct work or prevent the government from executing its programs and running the state's affairs.

Sixth, the House of Representatives appreciates the brothers and friends who are exerting efforts to mend the rift and maintain Yemeni unity.

The house will resume its meetings on Saturday [9 April] morning, God willing.

Salih Takes Questions on Phone-In Program

JN0704193294

[Editorial Report] Sanaa Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic, in a linkup with the Arabic Service of the BBC, at 1505 GMT on 7 April carries a 55-minute live phone-in program from Sanaa with Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council. President Salih responds to telephoned

questions and comments from an international audience. The program is moderated by the BBC's Madihah al-Madfa'i.

Responding to a caller from Tunisia, Salih says that since the signing of the accord document in Amman on 20 February he has been striving with his coalition partners in the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) to implement the document. He says he regrets his efforts have "met with a lukewarm response from certain YSP leaders."

Commenting on explosions in Dhamar Governorate "at 2000 yesterday", Salih calls it a "transparent game," calculated to create problems to justify opening indiscriminate fire on bystanders and nearby camps, including those of the Republican Guard and Public Security forces. The aim, President Salih contends, was to "create tension" and bring about the relocation of military forces from north to south and vice versa, as "envisaged by certain YSP leaders." Salih adds that he "had given instructions for military units not to respond with a single bullet." He notes with satisfaction that there were no casualties, apart from two members of the security forces injured trying to subdue a YSP member who attempted to break the law. Both he and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Salih notes, followed developments personally and calmed the situation. The military committee then moved to the Dhamar Governorate to investigate the situation.

Responding to a listener from Syria, who voices fears of the Yemeni issue being internationalized in a manner similar to the Gulf crisis, Salih says every effort is being made to contain the crisis, but regrets that some members of the YSP want to see the Yemeni crisis turned into a pan-Arab concern. Salih stresses, however, that he has no objection to "our brothers in the Arab world lending a hand" to the solution of the crisis. We are striving, he says, to contain the crisis and keep it from internationalization, a prospect he calls "very dangerous."

Asked by a listener calling from Yemen to spell out the underlying causes of the Yemeni crisis, the president says the causes are well known and that they began to emerge after the 27 April parliamentary elections. He maintains that some YSP members, who initially went along with the election returns, "began to act so as to bring considerable harm to the Yemeni people and national unity."

Taking a question from another Tunisian caller, Salih says the first days of Yemeni unity may have provided an admirable example for the Arab world to follow. But "we feared that our unity was bound to be targeted for conspiracies." The question was, Salih adds: "Who would implement such a plan?" "We believe a conspiracy is being implemented by the very authors of the unity." Those who brought harm and caused cracks in national Yemeni unity, he regrets, belong in the camp of the "makers of this great event."

Salih exhorts "our brothers and partners" in the coalition government to avert military conflict that will cause considerable damage to the national economy and national unity. He recalls that Yemenis had a taste of infighting in 1972 and again in 1979, in both cases the "winner was the loser." Only the enemies of the homeland and Arab unity stand to gain from infighting, Salih asserts.

Answering another caller from Yemen, President Salih describes his meeting with Yemeni leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Salalah as "positive on a personal plane" but not so in terms of the Yemeni crisis, especially since "new conditions running counter to the pledge and accord document were put forward." The president suggests that the YSP is trying to circumvent the Constitution and the accord document, which neither he nor the Yemeni people find acceptable.

'Abbas Bin-Hamid-al-Din, who identifies himself as a Yemeni national living in Cairo, proposes the expansion of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee to include men belonging to the Hamid-al-Din family, which previously ruled Yemen, to defuse the ongoing crisis, Yemeni President Salih says: "I believe that the Hamid-al-Din family contributed to the Yemeni crisis, because it has left us a burdensome legacy. It is part of this crisis. We have continued to pay a price, thanks to the policies pursued by the Hamid-al-Din family, and the British colonial rule."

Responding to a question from a caller in Saudi Arabia regarding the need for President Salih and Vice President al-Bid to demonstrate flexibility to "avert endless civil wars," Yemeni President Salih says: "We, along with all well-intentioned people in the homeland, will do our best to resolve and contain this crisis so as to safeguard unity. This crisis is the price we are paying for this national accomplishment. We, along with all patriots and well-intentioned people throughout the Yemeni homeland, are determined to safeguard unity."

Muhammad al-Bid, a Yemeni national in Riyadh, poses the following question to Yemeni President Salih: "Let us say that the country is divided, God forbid. Will Yemen relive the situation currently experienced by Somalia, which is going through immense fighting, chaos, and anarchy?"

President Salih answers this question, saying: "We are optimistic that no civil wars will erupt. All patriots and honorable people inside and outside the homeland are careful to prevent the eruption of a civil war. We are doing our utmost to avert this eventuality. We will certainly contain this crisis. In the first months of the crisis, many provocations took place. Those who planned this crisis believed that a war would erupt in the initial stages of the crisis. Nonetheless, we have endured a lot to thwart these schemes, which seek to bring about a civil war, or return the situation to pre-May 20, 1990."

Responding to a question by Ahmad Nasir al-Juraydi, a Yemeni national from the Central Republic of Africa, Yemeni President Salih says: "Security violations have been exaggerated by the media. There are some security

violations everywhere. Most of these are criminal security-related violations. Some of these violations are committed by culprits to distort Yemeni unity, and tarnish the image of the Yemeni people. However, the Yemeni people are keen to safeguard their security and stability. The security organs are conducting their duties and pursuing those who are committing security violations."

Caller 'Abdallah Salih al-Yafi'i from Mecca, Saudi Arabia, holds President Salih, Vice President al-Bid, and the entire Yemeni command structure responsible for the crisis. President Salih responds: "Since the inception of the crisis, we have made many concessions to safeguard Yemeni unity. For example, we did not show a determination to obtain a share in authority commensurate with the results we achieved in the parliamentary elections to the House of Representatives. We have abandoned some seats, and some pivotal authority positions in favor of our brothers within the coalition government, including the prime minister's post and a seat on the Presidential Council. These are concessions. It is no mistake if we makes concessions to one another, and to brothers, to resolve this crisis. We have even offered our brothers within the YSP to quit if we are deemed one of the causes of the crisis, so that a new leadership may be elected, and so that the Yemeni unity may remain intact." He mentions a proposal contained in a bill to be submitted to the House of Representatives stipulating that the president of the Republic may serve only two terms in office. He deems all these as concessions benefiting the Yemeni people.

Responding to a question posed by 'Abd-al- 'Aziz Salih al-Mafqari from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, President Salih says the failure to send to court suspects charged in connection with a series of explosions and assassinations can be traced to the fact that some of them remain at large, while others are being interrogated by the Public Prosecution department. He adds: "We would like to address our YSP command brothers, saying that security agencies and all state bodies must be reactivated so that the state, including its defense, security, legislative, and executive bodies, may all function as a single team."

President Salih adds: "God willing, the pre-May 22 situation will not relived. Nor shall we condone infighting. This is a political decision that I have made in my capacity as chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council. I have decided that I will not allow infighting among the sons of the close-knit Yemeni people, regardless of the provocations, and regardless of what has happened. Had we been people without any sense of responsibility, we would have been dragged to infighting, and to a repartitioning of the country, which has been planned. However, all these schemes have been thwarted."

Answering a question from Farid Ahmad Mubarak Juhayman in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, who urges Yemeni President Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid to tender their resignations so others may address Yemeni affairs, President Salih says: "I informed brother 'Ali Salim, in Amman, that if the dispute is personal, that is, one between the president and his deputy, then I was ready to tender my resignation so a replacement might be elected by the House of Representatives."

President Salih maintains that the root causes of the crisis cannot be addressed by the mere resignation of leaders. He adds: "If the resignation of the president and his deputy would save the Yemeni people, then we would be ready to tender our resignations. But, I am afraid that such resignations might aggravate and exacerbate the crisis, and lead to a civil war."

When asked by a caller from Riyadh about the frustration plaguing the Yemeni people because of their sufferings, thanks to the ongoing crisis, Yemeni President Salih denies that the coalition government is surviving by fabricating and managing crises.

Answering a question on an alleged British role in the Yemeni crisis, and whether Britain has given the YSP the green light to effect a repartitioning of the country so Britain may benefit from oil revenues, given the fact that it has oil prospecting firms operating in Yemen, President Salih says: "We do not want to make accusations against anybody. We urge all our brothers, all our beloved ones in the Arab homeland, in the Islamic world, and in friendly states to aid the Yemeni people during the ordeal fabricated by some people, the ordeal that has immensely harmed our national unity. We will not make any accusations unless we have documents to corroborate such accusations. There are numerous rumors around, and so are propaganda campaigns targeting this or that country. However, we must be in full charge of our own affairs. This is better than having our own affairs decided by other officials, be they British, Americans, other foreigners, or other Arabs. We, Yemenis, are the people who must be in full charge of our own affairs."

President Salih goes on to say: "This crisis is part of the schemes planned by some YSP leaders within the context of the so- called cultural plan. The Yemeni crisis is the very cultural plan they have spoken of. We have never wished to air such words over the media. But, regrettably, this is the cultural plan they are promoting to move the emotions of laymen, simpletons, and those who do not read between the lines with regard to this issue."

Responding to a caller from Morocco, President Salih hopes that "unity-oriented Arabs" will not turn Yemen into a battleground for settling differences that surfaced before and during the Gulf crisis. He hopes they will help Yemenis contain this crisis.

The program concludes at 1600 GMT.

Al-'Attas Lauds Salih-al-Bid Meeting

JN0604111194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Apr 94 pp 1, 27

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla]

[Text] Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has called on Jordan to continue its good offices to help Yemen overcome its crisis, and emphasized that the Yemeni leadership is eager to implement the accord document that was signed in Amman.

In a telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR in Aden yesterday, he emphasized that Jordan has played, and is still playing, a very important role in calming the situation in Yemen, whether through its active participation in the joint military committee or through its relentless efforts to bring the views of the conflicting parties closer together.

On the recent meeting between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Salalah, al-'Attas said the meeting achieved good results and the president and his deputy managed, in their closed meeting, to discuss a host of issues concerning the situation in Yemen and reached practical solutions for these issues.

He added: We hope that this meeting will open the way for convening other meetings at the level of Yemeni leadership. The Yemeni prime minister emphasized that the meeting between the president and his deputy is in itself a national achievement.

Answering a question on the possibility of a military explosion in Yemen in light of the charges exchanged by the parties regarding shipments of weapons to Yemen, al-'Attas emphasized that all parties in Yemen do not want the situation to reach the point of explosion, and all are prepared to do whatever they can to avoid bloodshed.

The Yemeni prime minister said the situation is improving in Yemen, and stressed that the government meeting, planned to be held in Ta'zz today will take place and will discuss implementation of decisions made by the previous government meeting held in Aden. These decisions focussed on implementation of the accord document.

He added that the government will adopt a number of other decisions to complete the mechanism through which the document will be implemented.

Meanwhile, AL-DUSTUR made a telephone contact with Ahmad Jabir 'Afif, chairman of the Yemeni national dialogue committee, in which he emphasized that solving the Yemeni crisis is in the hands of the Yemenis, and this can be done through implementing the accord document.

'Afif said the committee, which was formed from outside the ruling coalition parties, unanimously agrees that the accord document should be implemented, and that it is useless to go anywhere outside Yemen.

'Afif criticized the ruling coalition for ignoring the national dialogue committee at this stage and for not informing the committee of developments.

He said that during its today's meeting, the committee will discuss the practices of the coalition partners, and will convey its view to the coalition leaders. He emphasized that these practices have absented the role of the dialogue committee, and the committee became unaware of what is going on. He said the committee does not know in whose interest it is being absented.

Ba'th Party 47th Anniversary Statement

JN0704103894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Statement issued by the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on ocassion of the party's 47th anniversary in April]

[Text] O sons of our lofty nation, O militant Ba'thists: [word indistinct] the 47th anniversary of the founding of your party, the ASBP [Arab Socialist Ba'th Party], the masses of the Arab nation and its militant pan-Arab and patriotic forces greet this anniversary with the honor it deserves and extract from it living meanings of the objectives of the contemporary Arab revolution.

This prominent pan-Arab occasion represents a historic scene full of good deeds carried out by generations that raised the banner of the Ba'th and followed the path of the founder president, may God have mercy on his soul, who illuminated our road toward realizing the objectives of the great Ba'th Party through his enlightened thought and generous sacrifices.

The 47th anniversary embodies the same spirit that prevailed at the party's beginning, represented by the steadfastness of great Iraq, under the leadership of mujahid comrade Saddam Husayn, the symbol of our nation's struggle and the sign of its glory and firm stands in defense of pan-Arabism and Islam. The faithful people's conviction that the nation deserves its affiliation to its deep- rooted history and to gain victory over its enemies is becoming stronger.

It is an immortal anniversary that takes us back to the starting point to become aware of the relation between the founding of the party and the nation, and inspire us to carry out historic action and embark on a message-bearing role in accordance with the party's principles and in continuation of its tradition, and shouldering the trust of Arab socialist, democratic, and unionist struggle.

The founding of the party ushered in the beginning of ripe pan- Arab and militant action and transformed it into a popular movement capable of contributing to the civilized character of the nation through long popular struggle against the factors of its [word indistinct] and abandonment of its message-bearing role.

The Ba'th movement has set the course of resurgence and introduced organized and unified Arab action as a way to achieve salvation. Since the beginning, the movement found itself facing a difficult test and unique experience that require seriousness, harmony with its objectives, and ability to work for the nation through viewing life as a message and jihad.

After 47 years, the answers to the questions posed by Arab struggle and its challenges to the party's vanguards and organizations will continue to be linked to the readiness of the Ba'thists to discuss facts frankly with the people and resort to the party's militant principles and moral pillars represented in truth, love for the people, unselfishness, and commitment to the nation's interest and Party programs. All these principles and pillars continue to be standards for evaluating the party's march to determine how well this march is in line with the principles and to remedy any contradiction with these principles.

The Ba'th Party has set its path based on faith in the people and the justice of the Arab cause, and through a special approach and comprehensive vision of the contradictions in the Arab situation. the party has worked, in an honest and principled manner, to decisively confront this situation in the interest of the masses. The close ties with reality and the people provided the party with a firm opinion and position, and the ability to predict the future and develop the experience in order to know the facts of the historic stage and its trends, based on the revolutionary Arab ideology.

The Ba'th Party has translated its deep-rooted ideology and struggle, objective approach, and openness to the Arab and human heritages. This gave the party its distinguished nature that reflects the movement's characteristics and historic birth. The Ba'th Party was founded during a stage full of totalitarian ideologies and beliefs and integrated thoughts in the fields of arts and social and human sciences, which had the ability to influence. They enjoyed frameworks, establishments, and political, economic, and cultural influence to the point that they almost prevented the emergence of anything new and blocked any living expression about the identities of the developing peoples as a result of this influence and productivity.

The Ba'th has proven its presence by its comprehensive ideology. It saved the Arab fate and Arab thought from perdition, from imitation, and from being at the wrong end of the stick. It emphasized its role as a positive and creative movement whose establishment was dictated by the nation's circumstances and its ambitious aspirations. This movement resulted from the deeply felt spiritual tribulations of the nation and from its values of freedom, justice, self-respect, as well as its humanitarian approach.

The Ba'th did not confine its struggle to ready-made ideologies or to rigid concepts that outline the desired Arab society. It did not adopt a comprehensive universal outlook, but remained committed to its role as a revolutionary and faithful pan-Arab movement that will be working for hundreds of years. It will not acquiesce to abridged missions, becoming just an ideological school, or agree to a diminished size, becoming only a movement held captive by improvised positions and transient reactions. The Ba'th knows its civilized role and the basic components of its effort to pinpoint the historical moment through which the modern Arab resurgence is passing. The Arab struggle for this resurgence coincides with an imbalance in this age's materialistic civilization. This gives their struggle a missionary and humanitarian dimension that contributes to redressing this civilization and participating in the establishment of a new world

based on faith and spiritual munificence. That is why the anniversary of the party's establishment remains a constant call to return to the sources of faith. The more time passes, the more the need to widen the course of these sources, removing the residues and obstacles of the experiment, so they can regain their purity.

The Ba'th assumed its role in shaping Arab unionist awareness. It led the battle for values and objectives against the forces of the fait accompli and the advocates of isolationism and regionalism [word indistinct] its nation in front of a conspiracy that seeks to return it to the era of decline and stagnation. Thus, it assumed the responsibility of moving the Arab state of affairs in an upward historical direction. It maintained the incandescent flame of the pan-Arab movement for half a century as a unionist and humanitarian movement. Many unionist movements disappeared in many parts of the world, gave up their role and their objectives and submitted to international maneuvers and the interests of influential countries at the expense of their aspirations and legitimate objectives.

The secret of the Ba'th's pursuit of its vanguard pan-Arab role is its confidence in the nation's capabilities. Struggle can unleash the best potentials. This has made it, throughout its history, the selfless friend of the Arab masses, waging the Arab nation's fierce battles. It produced tangible results and transformations for this nation, starting with its participation in confronting the usurpation of Palestine, the constant confrontation of Zionism and the reactionary alliances and regimes, the attainment of the first unity in the modern Arab history, the toppling of secessionist anti-Arab regimes deeply involved in the conspiracies against unity, and the struggle to attain the people's objectives, foremost being oil nationalization, tackling issues of minorities, and setting up a broad popular movement throughout the Arab homeland devoted to championing the pan-Arab cause.

Topping the list of the Arab struggle's gains is the Ba'th convergence with Iraqi spirit and aspirations, in a historical meeting that expressed the depth of Iraq's militant and civilized personality, unleashed its heroic potential, and placed this militant country, after the success of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution, at the center of the Arab nation's battle against the schemes to liquidate the Arab cause and the conspiracies against the future. The Ba'th placed in Iraqi hands, conscience, and minds the requisites for the major unleashing of forces and the great achievements of a lofty people.

With its civilized heritage and its unique past and present pan- Arab role, not to mention its achievements in the field of liberation, its sharp Arab perception, the audacity of its Ba'thist vanguards, and the genius of its struggler leader Comrade Saddam Husayn, Iraq has renewed its position under the Ba'th banner as the focal point and shield protecting the nation by freeing its political decision making and its economic, scientific, and military achievements, burying the aggression at the eastern gate of the Arab homeland in the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah. It embodies the brilliant face of resurgence and is the proof of the nation's salubrity and the platform from which it proceeds to liberate Palestine. From this premise, Iraq's becoming the target for the abortion of the plan for Arab resurgence reconfirms the importance of the strategic imperialist constants in the Arab homeland. Thus, the Mother of Battles summed up the importance of Arab security vis- a-vis the perils it faces. In essence, it was of a defensive nature, although it contained a spirit of rejection and confrontation of the despot. It mobilized the nation's comprehensive outlook toward the requisites of life, and expressed the commitment of the will and the Arab moral and ethical configuration that does not accept the prevalence of materialistic concepts and the violation of Arab sovereignty and honor.

This clairvoyant perception of the values of truth and justice has made the Arab nation fully aware of its posture and of the inevitability of its victory in the battle of values. This perception has made it possible to specify the points of weakness among the ranks of the aggressors and to foresee the imminent downfall of the powers of hegemony, despite their unrestrained whims and the clamor of media disinformation that aims at glorifying the sole superpower and embellishing its arrogance.

Confidence about the future does not reflect unjustified optimism. Rather, it is based on a profound understanding of the Mother of Battles' repercussions and an ability to inspire the masses of the Arab people. This confidence emerged after the course of events was monitored, the international situation was digested, the balances of power were assessed, and history deeply studied. All this tells us that the enemies' course and interests are in constant contradiction with human will. More importantly, this confidence has provided a clear picture of the Arab nation's abilities to be involved in great actions of jihad and construction when requirements and factors of progress are accompanied by genuine policies.

From the outset, it has been clear that the subsidence of the wave of unilateral control of the fate of the world is a matter of time, which will not be long. This is clear despite the heavy price paid by humanity, especially the Iraqi people, who confronted a military aggression and continue to be subjected to an oppressive siege, because of the continued unilateral hegemony.

O sons of the glorious Arab nation, O Ba'thist strugglers: The Ba'th Party has pointed out the modern pan-Arab movement's maturity and ability to express its essence and objectives. At the same time, the Ba'th Party continued to view pan-Arab issues as a militant incentive and an instigator for yearning for an Arab awakening. Arab unity was and will be a cultural framework capable of maintaining the Arab nation's existence and ability to remain at the level of its message. Unity will continue to be the Arab nation's chance to achieve progress, improve its status, and emphasize its united identity. Unity is not

a momentary need or a fallacy brought about by transient circumstances or by dreamy ideological adventures. Therefore, Arab unity is not a slogan raised today, to be forgotten tomorrow. In the past, whenever they sensed weakness or retrogression among the ranks of the Arab nation, hostile foreign powers, reactionary regimes, and advocates of parochialism attempted to undermine the idea of unity and waged systematic wars against it. All this has one purpose, namely, to ensure the role of the usurping Zionist entity as a force obstructing Arab advancement.

The regional plans aiming at obliterating pan-Arab identity, resisting Arab unity, and granting the Zionist entity geographic legitimacy and a stronger hegemonic role have proved lame and unachievable. Those plans take advantage of the climate of retrogression and disintegration and the role of colluding Arab regimes to weaken the trend of liberation, democracy, and unity, and to distract the masses' attention from their battles and real concerns. They offer false, useless solutions that only increase the masses' poverty and dependence on foreigners. At their best, such solutions can be described as being an expression of the state of affairs of the impotent ones, not of the Arab nation and its conscience.

The failure of regional policies and their role in weakening joint Arab action can be responded to only by action in accordance with a realistic, militant unionist plan, starting with an objective understanding of the phases of the struggle for unity and by providing the practical requirements for advancement. This plan should replace impotent and deceptive plans built on regional and international deals at the expense of our people's interests, principles, and future.

O masses of our militant people: The Palestinian Arab issue has remained a sensitive parameter that signals ebbs and tides in our Arab situation. It has been a measure of the situation of the masses and the level of their preparedness to wage major battles. Since its establishment, our party has viewed this issue as the essence of the Arab nation's ordeal and the core of the Arab cause. This stand proceeds from the party's realization of the extent of the danger posed by the Zionist scheme and the Jewish state's role of obstructing the Arabs' natural unity. the party's stand also stems from the prominent position of the Palestine question in the conscience of the masses and in the formulation of the modern pan-Arab consciousness and the Arab masses' collective approach to the Palestine question as a crucial issue.

Since its early beginnings, Palestine has been a basic part of the Ba'th Party's struggle. the party has been present on the Palestinian scene throughout all the stages of struggle, offering known sacrifices that culminated in the Mother of Battles and Iraq's glorious stand when the al-Husayn and al-'Abbas missiles pounded the usurping entity. The armed Palestinian resistance, the valiant intifadah, Iraq's victory in the al-Qadisiyah battle, and the momentum provided by the Mother of Battles have embodied the course of liberation, the need to provide the requirements of balance with the enemy, and revived hopes for the historic solution and set it as a strategic target. In contrast, the abortion of the will of liberation, emptying the Palestine question of its content, and the agent Arab regimes' adoption of a course aiming at liquidating the Palestine question have provided an atmosphere for maneuvers and the adoption of political effort as an alternative that disregards the resources of struggle, future chances, and the positive factors that can lead to weakening the enemy front and rectifying the regional and internal balances of power in our nation's interest.

And thus involvement in political and informational work in approaching the settlement strategy began to assume a more clear-cut character. At the same time there was an increasing loss of direction and a dilution of principles and enthusiasm for liberation, caused by temptations to accommodate the status quo under external and Arab pressures. The hardships to which the Palestinian Arab people are being subjected are being used as a pretext to recognize the Zionist enemy and to go along with the scheme to transform the bulk of the land of Palestine into disputed territory.

Developments unfolding in the Palestinian arena highlight two contradictory positions—the position of the intifadah masses adhering to the goal of liberation and the fight to get recognition for the Palestinian people, and the position of the so-called settlement and dealing with [words indistinct] or reserve to achieve one strategy.

The bloody and outrageous massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque redrew part of the picture after a long spell of haziness, reminding Arabs and the world of the tragedies and ugliness of occupation and the hidden intentions of aggression. It exposed the lie of international legitimacy that is being driven into the background by the savagery of Zionist terror. An incident of this enormity provides fresh evidence of an aggressive nature that warrants a determined stand against present challenges and a better grasp of the truth about the enemy and the dichotomies of the human and moral and cultural aspects of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The belittlement of our nation's rights and the Hebron massacre's implications furnish proof that coexistence with an enemy that denies the most basic conditions of life and aggresses against the most cherished sanctities is an impossibility.

Thus, the wretched attempts at brain-washing and cutting us off from our history in order to transform Palestine into a bridge for the Zionists to cross into the region are part of the culture of what was termed peace and settlement that seeks to promote the slogan of absorbing the Zionist entity. Such a slogan was bandied about in the past as a test balloon by suspect circles and reactionary regimes to sound out the reaction of the masses. This slogan was meant to serve sinister ends. It has been repeated [words indistinct] supported by a

variety of factors to trumpet the humanitarian dimension of containing the Zionist entity, given our nation's potential possession of the edge promoting the notion that the Arab nation can afford to accept peace and conciliation with Israel and recognize its theft of Palestine today with an eye to winning the conflict in the future. This is an oversimplification caused by shortsightedness. The Zionist entity's existence is an imperialist creation brought about by division, subservience, and backwardness. This fact does not fall under the heading of a normal exchange of normal relations in the region. Palestine is the focal point of a vibrant pan-Arab struggle, and will remain so until it retrieves its Arabism. The Palestinian cause has assumed its status as a central issue for Arabs by virtue of the fact that Palestine was stolen, and due to the very nature of the conflict. The political dimension of the issue has assumed a special dimension. We should, therefore, refuse to marginalize it and thwart the Arab regimes' attempts to ignore it. This is despite the importance of other central Arab issues that determine the directions of Arab struggle and engage the attention of the masses.

Our Arab nation views the Palestinian issue as a central cause. The conspiracies to liquidate it only underscore the importance of working to help it, pursuing the patient struggle for liberating Palestine. For this reason, the masses of the occupied territories are providing the finest examples of courage and heroism and adherence to rights. They are turning the chapters of the tragedy of occupation and coercion into fine chapters of jihad, just as the uprising of the Arab masses in Egypt was an eloquent response to the advocates of normalization and a damnation of the regime that imperialism had devoted to advance its agenda.

These features that throb with the preparations of the Arab masses to pursue the struggle are the most conclusive proof that the Arab nation has wagered on its own resources and the awareness of its children as they counter attempts to sell the settlement to our nation.

Militant Arab masses; militant Ba'thists: Since the Ba'th took its first steps in the struggle, it has undertaken the responsibility of instilling the spirit of faith and freedom and confidence in the Arab nation. Its militants have pledged themselves to a disciplinary line that reinforces in them and the Arab masses the feeling of pride in our history and the Arab character and a cultural role enemical to shaky allegiances and a fascination with the glitter of false modernity.

For decades, it has continued to champion a meeting of hearts and minds between progressive Arabism and Islam, between the Arab character and Islam, to promote communication with nations and peoples to advance the causes of mankind. In this context, the intellectual, spiritual, cultural, military, and political victory scored in the glorious battle of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah has provoked the aggression, because the colonialist West succumbed to its aggressive instincts and reestablished the complexes dwelling within its centuries-old memories to nip in the bud the potential for true renaissance demonstrated by Muslims and Arabs, to neutralize them by crippling the forceful role of Iraq, which embodies the Arabs' quest for progress as well as the heroic defense of Arabism and Islam.

Hence, the jihad waged in the Mother of Battles was the epitome of adherence to principles, a manifestation of the determination to uphold basic values pertaining to the freedom of peoples, and an attempt to promote international relations to free them from the spirit of custodianship, and of the domination of world colonialism.

Our nation's discourse in its jihad mission, manifested in addresses by the leader of the faithful grouping, mujahid comrade Saddam Husayn, strengthened the people's hope that the new wave of domination would subside, that the forces of faith and jihad would triumph against brutal powers and tyrannical invaders everywhere.

In this climate, which was highly significant and in which intentions became crystal clear, steadfastness turned into a living example, and began to bear fruit. The rejection of and opposition to the U.S.-Zionist hegemonic course and its tyranny have begun to be felt, particularly after the halo surrounding this course began to fade because it does not uphold the values of justice and equality, because it opposes the peoples' interests and aspirations, because contradictions exist among those who enjoy spheres of influence and want to share the booty, and because of the emergence of the dynamism of scientific and technological advancement, which is bound to impact on the international economic situation, thanks to the newly-created regional blocs that are increasingly affecting international relations by various means.

The militant and patient Somali people have set another splendid example by vindicating the peoples' rights, as well as their ability to resist foreign intervention and the violation of national sovereignty. The Somali people have been able to make the aggressive Western alliance leave their territory, defeated and at a loss, not to mention the grave moral and political losses it sustained.

Day after day, the attempts and pressure to impose U.S. domination subside. These attempts and pressures are no longer useful, given the fact that there is less need for U.S. military protection in various parts of the world due to the end of the Cold War, and because the U.S. role in international investments is declining. Consequently, the United States has lost the seminal momentum in the world economy that it used to expand its influence.

Hence, threats to use force and pressure are becoming burdensome at a time when such threats cannot serve as a means to promote what officials called the new world order, which has proven to be a cover for evasion and deception. This has prompted some quarters that promoted this order to act against it, and to utterly abandon it.

The evidence for this is that the international policy pursued in the context of the unipolar order is experiencing a bottleneck. This is because the game of involving basic values and human destiny in international politics has backfired. The covers and slogans of democracy, human rights, anti-war sentiment, and environmental protection have called into serious question the double standards employed, as manifested in the successive crises and the marathon race to reclaim colonialist influence. This has demonstrated the lack of balance, as well as the propaganda content of all the political covers used by hegemonic forces.

Consequently, the upcoming phase is that of the erosion of hegemony after it was used to oppress and punish peoples, and to threaten their security and sovereignty with economic boycott, aggression, and economic embargoes. At the same time, it is the phase in which the rejection of domination and subjugation will mature and turn into international rebellion and disobedience. What is currently taking place in Russia is a referendum on its independent national choices. It is a manifestation of the importance of rehabilitating its international role and its national pride, which was trampled by the United States and its allies. This trampling of pride has become so objectionable that the Russian people are being pressured into abandoning all components of their sovereignty in return for deceptive and sweet promises that have caused Russia to lose its unique standing among the international community of nations. Russia has almost become subservient.

O sons of our glorious Arab nation; O you militant Ba'thists: On this glorious anniversary, one cannot escape the analogy between the phase in which the party was launched and the current phase in terms of the need to reestablish an Arab consciousness of the rules of the game at this point in time, the need to end the state of stagnation, and the need to work to reactivate intellectual and militant thought to highlight the jihad implications of the Mother of Battles and the spirit of heroism epitomized by the unique leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, given the qualitative challenge the Mother of Battles posed to the nation, the challenge that is targeting the axioms of the pan-Arab struggle.

Therefore, Arab strugglers are required to make persistent moves to promote their struggle, because this is required by the need to rid the potential for renaissance of the burdensome negative phenomena which have pushed Arabs backwards. This is a must if we are to have a good understanding of the dialectics of renaissance and decline, an understanding that enables us to cope with the current circumstances and employ proper intellectual and aggressive criteria to reach an objective assessment of the phenomena of this dialectic.

Spontaneous popular vigilance during the Mother of Battles was the result of an awareness of Iraq's pan-Arab stand and national awakening. Responsibility for maintaining clarity and developing the struggle require the consolidation of the masses with jihad principles and the enlightenment of the people about the objectives of the nation's battle, its historical depth, and cultural content.

Our nation's fate is to repulse the colonialist foreign onslaught, prevent infiltration into national ranks, and stop the exacerbation of its contradictions. We must hold fast to the principled course in order to remain steadfast in the face of old and new plots.

The forces of the Arab nation can abort the plots of fragmentation and the internationalization of internal problems. They can mobilize their potential to lift the blockade of Iraq and coordinate their plans and stands to reject hegemony and plots of submission. They can maintain their gains with the unity of the Arab masses and reinforce democratic and united achievements.

In light of the Arab masses' struggle, history, and objectives, militant action should be revived in national and pan-Arab life to restore the shining face and honorable role of popular Arab struggle. Our political parties and unions, our Arab intellectual and artistic bodies, and all vital organizations in the nation are required to wage the decisive battle—each according to their position and capabilities—to maintain the spirit of resistance of the Mother of Battles. They are called on to wage an uprising to decide the fate of our conflict against occupation and aggression, on the path of awakening and cultural rejuvenation.

The living nations, which face difficult circumstances and wage struggle, look forward to turning events, no matter how great they are, into factors of strength for the future.

Let all honest good people pool their efforts to prepare the factors of steadfastness and confrontation on the basis of principled and historical grounds so the achievements of the Arab revolution and struggle will be established deep in the heart of Arabs and human history.

By providing a creative framework to move the masses, and by establishing a large-scale militant Arab front in light of a faithful future pan-Arab plan, our nation will restore its strength and proceed with its jihad to resume its cultural role. It will seize the historic initiative through the strength of principles and the will of people.

On the party's anniversary, Ba'thists call on our nation to sharpen their determination, to move toward the integration and unity of the Arab struggle strategy, and to develop formulas and levels of action to hallmarks of steadfastness and victory and to build the new Arab homeland and new Arab individuals who know their role and who have faith in their mission.

Long live the Arab nation and its steadfast sons in Iraq and Palestine in defense of Arab future and rights. Long live the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the symbol of the nation's unity and the inspirer of its generations. Faithful greetings to the Ba'th founder and the inspirer of its generations. Greetings of love to the mujahid

leader Comrade Saddam Husayn, the knight of the nation and the leader of its awakening.

Glory and immortality to the righteous martyrs of our nation; the martyrs of Palestine, the Ba'th, the al-Qadisiyah, and the Mother of Battles; all the martyrs of its crucial causes.

[Signed] The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, April 1994

Ramadan on Embargo, Kurds, South, Foreign Ties

NC0604113294 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Apr 94 p 4

[Interview with Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Muhammad] The economic embargo against Iraq has been in force for three years. What are the causes and results of this embargo and how are you facing the hardship, such as prices and inflation soaring madly?

[Ramadan] The unjust embargo imposed on Iraq on 6 August 1991 is entering its fourth year, making it the first in the entire world. Any embargo launched against any country in the last half of this century for any reason does not compare with the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq in the name of international legitimacy under the hegemony of the United States. The embargo is being enforced under stark and direct American threats to the nations of the world. No one cared about the humanitarian aspect (medicine and food) of this unjust embargo, which is not covered by the Security Council resolutions.

The way the embargo was implemented and followed up on reflected the intentions of those who imposed it, foremost of which was the United States. It has become clear that the implementation of the embargo has nothing to do with the reason they gave; that is, Kuwait. The objective of the blockade, obviously, is to stop Iraq's progress, which represents the beginning of the Arab nation's progress. Had Iraq's position proceeded only from its own interests, the country would not have been dealt with so brutally. They know full well that Iraq's development will benefit the Arab nation, no matter how far they go in promoting borders and regionalism.

The embargo will erode and be smashed through the capabilities of society, and it will be lifted completely when the enemies realize that it is impossible to achieve their objectives. In our confrontation, we rely above all on our own capabilities. From the first day of the aggression and the embargo, and despite their claims that it would be lifted when the fighting ended or the reason was removed, we did not trust the party who made the decision because it was made for conspiratorial purposes and that party planned to maintain it. We did not await a decision ending the embargo from the same party that imposed it. Yes, today, we are making intensive efforts to build our capabilities and to face the basic dilemmas. The main planner of the embargo wanted to deprive our citizens of fuel, electricity, and water. These are three basic things that would exhaust the resistance of any country in a few months. But in only a few weeks, our capabilities managed to restore fuel, electricity, and water. I do not think that there is a country in our region (and I do not say the world, so that I will not be accused of exaggeration) where the situation of water, electricity, and fuel in terms of price, competence, and power, matches that of Iraq, although those facilities were deliberately attacked by the colonialist alliance. We began and continued to reconstruct everything that was destroyed, not only the projects dealing with water, electricity, and fuel. We can say today that the building of the economic structure is better in Iraq than in any other country in the region. If we compare situations in the region's states with that of besieged Iraq, we will find that Iraq's is much better.

Now that we have overcome many problems and dilemmas, our main burden remains food and medicine, which raised inflation greatly. This is frequently natural. We cannot say why inflation in Iraq today is high; we do not know the reason. We cannot say if the reason is a faulty economic structure or the wrong economic development policy.

Inflation in Iraq is going up as it is in other Arab countries that are neither in a state of war nor under an unjust blockade; countries that, moreover, claim good relations with the entire world and friendship with the world capitalist countries and the countries that protect and run international funds that provide loans, grants, and aid. Nevertheless, those countries face higher inflation rate than Iraq.

We managed to provide better living conditions for the Iraqis. Our current crisis has a time limit that is mainly linked to the promotion of the agricultural sector and the provision of most basic foodstuffs, which play a major role in inflation. At the same time, we have in mind a host of measures and are now implementing them gradually, to prolong the steadfastness of the Iraqis against the American international conspiracy. We trust that the harmful effects of the economic blockade on many countries will start to appear—if they have not already appeared. These countries include Turkey, Russia, France, and many other countries that began to speak about the impact of the blockade on them and about their financial losses as a result of implementing the embargo against Iraq. They are demanding that this embargo be reconsidered. Of course, had the Iraqis not held out and continued building and construction, the impact of the blockade on the entire foreign scene would not have been felt. Stopping the economy and development in Iraq is an extremely serious issue that will negatively affect many countries, not only Iraq. We will overcome the blockade, and by doing so, we will not be merely passing a crisis but embarking on new breakthroughs and progress.

[Muhammad] We have seen and sensed many major achievements in the area of construction, but perhaps the most important one is the progress in agricultural development. Why this turn toward agriculture? What kind of facilities have you offered to citizens? Are you facing any obstacles in this field?

[Ramadan] As you know, ancient Iraq was called the land of fertility, not only the land of Mesopotamia. This means Iraq is distinguished from many countries. No single inch of Iraq is unfit for agriculture, and as they say, no single inch underground does not contain oil. Iraq is very rich in arable land but there are some problems. Some agricultural areas are highly salty and need reclamation, others need irrigation projects, others need facilities to get water through, and others need unconventional irrigation techniques. But in principle, all Iraqi lands, including the desert area on the Iraqi-Jordanian border, are suitable for agriculture and for the growing of grains in particular.

I do not say that the February 1968 revolution was not concerned with the agricultural sector, but practically the revolution did not turn all attention to that sector because of the availability of other resources, especially oil, and the ease with which many foodstuffs could be imported. We admit that we did not push our agricultural sector as strongly as it should have been. One of the most important results of the blockade and of the Mother of all Battles, therefore, was giving top priority to agriculture within the reconstruction process. This is why you now find three major dams being constructed at the same time with Iraqi resources. Despite the blockade, there are a number of large- scale reclamation projects. I tell you that at the best times, when Iraq used to receive billions in revenue, you could not find three dams under construction at the same time.

Because there is extensive land reclamation, there are great facilities in the ownership of land. We put no restriction on the ownership of land. Previously, we said that the owner must be a peasant and from the region where the land is located. Now we give land and provide several facilities to any Iraqi citizen, peasant or not, as soon as he shows readiness to work in agriculture. We bear in mind that if the profits of the agricultural sector are not good, people will not be interested. As you know, 90 percent of the effort in the commercial sector is parasitic and nonproductive. Yet, many countries provide facilities for commerce, and you find many people getting into it and lines of brokers appearing. In agricultural and industrial sectors, on the other hand, you find hindrances and obstacles. Therefore, we offered many facilities in buying lands, seeds, machinery, and fertilizers. People were encouraged and responsive, and today we have made major strides in this area. In the next two years, when a number of dams and reclamation projects currently under implementation are completed, Iraq will see a radical and decisive development in the area of agriculture. We will not be satisfied with planting in only the land around the two rivers; we will plant in desert lands, beginning with the oases on the road between al-Anbar and Jordan. We insist on this policy even after the lifting of the unjust blockade; we must achieve self-sufficiency in food, and the agricultural sector must join that of minerals in the field of exports.

[Muhammad] Intense and complicated talks have been going on for seven months between Iraq and the UN special committee headed by Rolf Ekeus to look into the economic blockade. These talks seem to be facing numerous difficulties that threaten them with failure. What are the United Nations' real conditions for lifting the blockade on Iraq and what are the difficulties facing Rolf Ekeus' committee? What is your assessment of the UN plan to export Iraqi oil?

[Ramadan] Frankly, if the malicious and conspiratorial intentions of the United States, in particular, come to an end, you would find no problem between Iraq and the UN committee. The situation is obvious, and we have complied with the Security Council resolutions although we were disgusted by them. Thus, the blockade and problems should have ended long ago but the Americans' malicious intentions, provoked by Zionism, prevented this from happening.

The United States places impediments and obstacles to the committee's work to foil its tasks. We do not look forward to the lifting of the blockade through the resumption of Iraqi oil exports according to the UN-proposed plan, which is another form of blockade against Iraq that causes psychological harm to the citizens. Yes, we want the blockade to be lifted and oil exports to be resumed but only in a manner that does not harm our independence and national sovereignty. We want Iraq to sell and buy without intervention by any power in its affairs. As for the current plan to resume oil exports according to their own way, it is rejected because it constitutes a flagrant intervention in our affairs and sovereignty.

[Muhammad] U.S. aircraft have penetrated Iraqi airspace numerous times. What is the truth and aims of these violations? Will the Iraqi response in the future be confined to forwarding memoranda of denunciation to the United Nations and the Security Council as is the case now?

[Ramadan] We will examine the situation in the proper time and have a response to them, God willing. These violations provide new evidence and indications for those far and near to know what America exactly wants and whether it sponsors peace or terrorism.

We say facts indicate that the United States, which claims to be fighting terrorism, sponsors it everywhere. We assert that the U.S. aircrafts' violation of Iraqi airspace is a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and independence. I wonder, isn't a state that violates the sovereignty of another state a leader and advocate of terrorism? Where is international legitimacy, the Security Council, and the United Nations and why do we not hear their voices?

[Muhammad] The situation in northern Iraq is extremely ambiguous. What exactly is happening there and what is your assessment of the situation now after the establishment of a Kurdish government there?

[Ramadan] We cannot say that there is a Kurdish state or government in the north. The Iraqi Administration, troops, organizations, and institutions have withdrawn from the north of our own free will. We were certain that the United States and the allies wanted to exhaust Iraq's power and capability for steadfastness, construction, and development by keeping us busy in a war with their agents in the north. They wanted to exhaust our power, so we avoided the trap they set for us. Now the real identity of the Israeli and U.S. agents in the north has become clear to our people there. The presence of these Kurdish agents in the north today depends on the presence of U.S. troops in Turkey, whose mandate there has been renewed for another six months. It is now obvious that the presence of the U.S. troops, better known as the "Hammer," is to protect the Kurdish agents in the north. The day the U.S. troops leave, the ordinary Kurds will kick these agents out of the Iraqi land for good. Let me assure you that what is happening now in the north is not a permanent situation but part of the series of schemes against Iraq.

[Muhammad] The foreign media continue to report problems in southern Iraq and in the marshes. What exactly is the situation there?

[Ramadan] The situation in the south and the marshes is completely safe. Not only is it normal, it is better than good. I invite you to visit the south to see for yourself. (N.B.) [newspaper-supplied editorial note] I embarked on a journalistic fact-finding mission in southern Iraq for two days, during which I was convinced that things there are normal and calm.

[Muhammad] The human rights organizations, especially Amnesty International and the Arab Organization for Human Rights, say that there are executions, arrests, and violations of human rights in Iraq, particularly against the merchants, that the Iraqi leadership is behind. They also note that Iraq is yet to see any radical improvement in the field of public freedom, political pluralism, and real press freedom. What is your comment on this?

[Ramadan] These organizations are either agents, implementing suspicious schemes, or ignorant about the facts and the situation in Iraq. Iraq has entered a war with all the conspiratorial countries in the world, and the war is continuing. Up to now, Iraq has not introduced any emergency measures, although it is facing an aggression and an unjust embargo. However, if there are false tears, concern, and fear for the merchants, let me stress to you that we will detain and pass the people's sentence against any merchant who tampers with or hoards the people's food. In the law of God and humanity, he who strips the people of their food must be beheaded. I wonder: What merchants do the human rights groups mean? Shall we give freedom to merchants who tamper with the people's fate and means of livelihood? What do the Arab governments do to merchants who tamper with their peoples' means of sustenance? The Arab governments, which are part of this aggression and the embargo, as well as the unjust merchants are now shedding false tears over the execution of the corrupt merchants. We grant honest merchants major facilities to work honestly, but we pursue whoever tries to starve the people. This is our policy. If this policy runs counter to so-called democracy, then we reject this democracy because we have a responsibility to the people.

As for political pluralism, we have issued a law on it and anyone who wants to form a party can come forward. But we want parties that think about what to do for Iraq under its current circumstances; parties that struggle, bear full responsibility, and offer something new, not engage in one-upmanship for power.

We issued a law on pluralism before the blockade but no party has come forward; this is due to Iraq's current circumstances. Once the blockade is over, Iraq will witness actual and real implementation of the pluralism law, but now we are in a state of war.

[Muhammad] Currently, there is talk that Arab popular movements and organizations are retreating from solidarity with Iraq. What is your comment on this and what is currently required of the Arab popular movements and organizations in the context of their solidarity with Iraq?

[Ramadan] The popular movement in the Arab arena is growing enormously today. As for the situation at the official level, it is wavering, at the best of times, and conspiratorial at other times. The official Arab stand is conspiratorial and undoubtedly casts its shadow on the popular situation. Had the official stand toward Iraq not been so, the popular stand would have been different from what it is now and would have demonstrated great and true solidarity with us.

We are not mistaken about the Arab citizen's beliefs and convictions toward us, but the official policies hamper his solidarity with us. Hence, we should not accuse the popular political organizations and parties of something that is not their fault and ignore the official stand and its pressure and effects on these organizations and parties.

[Muhammad] Our Arab region is experiencing serious and crucial developments—foremost of which is the settlement to liquidate the Palestinian cause—that cause Iraq's crisis not to be placed on the agenda of Arab efforts and moves. How do you assess this situation and the Gaza-Jericho accord?

[Ramadan] We have a principled and historical view of the Palestinian issue linked with the tenet of the Socialist Ba'th Party that leads the government and people in Iraq. Iraq's stand is obvious and public; that is to say we will not give an inch of the Palestinian territories. However, Iraq is currently experiencing a historical

situation that forces it not to be vociferous about the issue; but this will not change our stand a bit.

Giving dialogues and meetings for the capitulatory settlement precedence over Iraq's cause or the blockade is something natural because the "ramshackle" collection of Arab states described as conspiring and wavering are making use of the current phase of the Palestinian cause. I wonder what the Arab countries have done on the blockade on Iraq?

We will never forget that the first forum to beat the war drums and declare war on Iraq was the Cairo conference. This conference gave a legitimate cover to the UN Security Council resolutions. We will also not forget that your party was the first that issued a statement denouncing the Cairo conference before the Egyptian and Arab public. It is not strange to see that there is great interest in carrying out the capitulatory political settlement, exploiting for this purpose the current poor Arab circumstances, particularly Iraq's circumstances. If Iraq's circumstances were different, the Arab situation would be very different too. Is it not very strange to find some Arab countries speaking of abolishing the Arab economic boycott of Israel but not saying anything about abolishing the unjust blockade against Iraq? Indeed these countries are demanding that this blockade be tightened. This illustrates the extent of the current deterioration, complacency, and conspiracy in official Arab circles.

[Muhammad] What is your opinion of the stance adopted by the Palestinian leadership—the PLO—on the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Ramadan] I do not believe that there is such a thing as a Palestinian leadership today; not after all that has happened. There is a stance adopted by some individuals who will bear the responsibility for what they are doing. If we think of the PLO as the Palestinian leadership, then we must remember that more than half of the PLO's members are not around anymore. Some have resigned, some have adopted completely different positions. It is clear that the decisions that are being made now are not decisions agreed on during PLO meetings but those made solely by the PLO chairman and some other members who do not represent that organization. We assure everyone that the Gaza-Jericho agreement blocks all the ways to liberate Palestinian land in the future. This agreement contradicts the goals of the Palestinian cause. We find no future promise in all the agreements on Gaza and Jericho. We see in these agreements an end of the Palestinian cause as far as the enemies and the complacent ones who have tired of the struggle are concerned. The Palestinian people, however, will never forget their land and sovereignty.

[Muhammad] What are the latest developments on the Iraqi- Iranian scene? Why have the public and covert negotiations between the two countries failed?

[Ramadan] We have two unresolved issues with Iran: the POW issue, on which nothing new has happened, and the Iraqi planes in Iran. Intermediaries are trying to work out the second issue but nothing concrete has happened. Unless these two issues are settled, we can have no normal relations with Iran.

[Muhammad] Are there any new developments regarding the ties with Egypt?

[Ramadan] After we established interest sections here and in Egypt to handle the affairs of our and their citizens, nothing new happened. We welcome Egyptian nationals here and protect their interests and rights.

Foreign Ministry Denies 'Secret' Contacts With Iraq

TA0804075194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Israel and Iraq are holding secret unofficial contacts aimed at expanding the Middle East peace process. This is reported in the new edition of the British ECONOMIST. The Israeli Foreign Ministry says this report is completely baseless.

Peres Holds 'Grave View' of 'Arafat Silence

TA0704150894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by Sefi Hendler; italicized passages recorded]

[Text] The Labor faction is now holding an emergency session in view of the recent events. Despite the urgency of the meeting, the prime minister and defense minister did not come here today. The most senior government representative here is Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who first addressed himself to Yasir 'Arafat's thundering silence after the wave of attacks in Israel:

[Peres] *I hold a grave view of it and regret it. I believe he should have reacted. Furthermore, some of the PLO leaders have reacted. At the same time it must be absolutely clear: Just as we will not hesitate taking every step against terrorism, we will not stop, not even for a minute, the negotiations for an arrangement in Gaza and Jericho.*

Regarding the defense aspect, Peres said that a closure will be imposed on the territories. He explained that the government will take every step necessary to restore security, though he believes the attack in 'Afula could not have been prevented. He describes here a chronicle of an incident that everyone could foresee:

[Peres] *The truth is that the incident in the Cave of the Patriarchs caused a deterioration. We knew that 40 days would go by and the retaliation would not be late in coming. Every thinking Israeli knew this would happen. We did everything we could to face the hardships, but we know that we cannot anticipate everything.*

Peres also referred to voices of the right-wing opposition, which in fact could be heard just outside the hall where a demonstration is calling for the establishment of a state commission of inquiry to investigate the deterioration of the security situation. Mr. Peres said:

[Peres] *Yes. This is an outstanding idea. If it is correct, then a commission of inquiry should investigate every day of the war of Lebanon. Not a day went by in Lebanon in which we did not have a fatality.*

The Labor faction session is still in progress at the Labor headquarters in Tel Aviv, and we will return if more significant remarks are made here.

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility for Ashdod Attack

NC0704105994 Paris AFP in English 1010 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Al-Shati' refugee camp, Occupied Gaza Strip, April 7 (AFP)—Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for shooting dead an Israeli and wounding four others on Wednesday [as received].

"The Islamic Jihad movement mourns with dignity and pride our martyr 'Ali Talib al-'Ammawi, hero of the Ashdod crossing operation," the fundamentalist group said in a statement.

The family live in al-Shati' refugee camp on the edge of Gaza City and his father Muhammad told AFP the boy was 19 years old and in his last year at high school.

He said his son had supported the fundamentalist movement Islamic Jihad.

Al-'Ammawi stepped off a bus at the port city of Ashdod and opened fire on a group of Israelis with an Uzi sub-machinegun, police said.

Peres: Negotiations With PLO To Continue Beyond 12 Apr

TA0704165494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that the negotiations will the PLO will not be concluded by the 12 April target date, but Israel is determined to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that speaking at the Labor faction meeting today, the foreign minister further said that Israel was going to propose a change in the negotiations with the PLO. Minister Peres said Israel proposes mapping out all the issues under negotiations: Issues which have been discussed to a successful conclusion would be summed up, and issues which have encountered difficulties would be transferred to the comprehensive negotiations.

Hebron Waqf Officials Detained Before Commission Appearance

TA0704165794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Three Hebron Muslim Waqf officials will testify before the Shamgar Commission next Sunday [10 April], after habeas corpus warrants were issued against them. They were placed in costudy until they give their testimony. The three Waqf members who have so far refused to cooperate with the commission, will be released from custody only if they post bail to guarantee they will show up for the hearings. This was reported by our legal affairs correspondent Hadar Wismonsky.

Demonstrators Call For End to Talks With PLO

TA0804080594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] There were demonstrations from Qiryat Shemona in the north to Elat in the south last night, protesting the recent terror attacks and calling on the government to stop peace negotiations with the Palestinians. In 'Afula, three policemen were lightly injured during a violent protest at the site of Wednesday's car-bomb attack. In Jerusalem, two demonstrators were arrested, one for throwing a lit torch at a policeman and the other for trying to break through police barriers.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 8 April carries a related report on page A3 by Nadav Shragay, adding that "the demonstrations were organized by 70 local headquarters set up last year by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, together with the right-wing parties, under the slogan 'This is not peace; this is terrorism'."]

Rabin, Goldstein's Widow Testify Before Shamgar Commission

TA0704090494

[Editorial Report] Writing on page 17 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 7 April, Mikhal Goldberg reports on the testimonies of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Barukh Goldstein's widow Miryam before the Shamgar commission of inquiry on 6 April.

"At the outset of his testimony, the prime minister reviewed the situation in the territories, specifically referring to the conditions in Hebron and in the Cave of the Patriarchs. Among other things, he commented on the worship arrangements at the site and on the permit given to settlers to enter the cave with their weapons.

"Another central issue featuring in his testimony was the Shin Bet's warnings about actions by Jewish extremists, in view of Army officers' contentions during the commission's hearings that they had not been forewarned about Jewish terror and the Shin Bet's arguments that it had issued hundreds of such warnings.

"An hour into Rabin's testimony, a phone call was received at the Supreme Court building: 'Beware, all of you leftists. The building will blow up within the hour.' Security personnel and policemen stationed in the building were put on the alert, and a police bomb disposal expert was summoned to the scene. They began searching the building and the cars parked in the adjacent parking lot. Nevertheless, the building was not evacuated, and Rabin proceeded with his testimony. Eventually, it proved to be a false alarm."

Goldberg goes on to write that Miryam Goldstein gave her testimony in camera. "She was smuggled into the building through the entrance reserved for the judges," and "the entire building was closed to the public in order to preserve the utmost secrecy." Goldstein was supposed to testify before the commission on 3 April, but she did not show up. "It is not clear why she changed her mind," Goldberg writes.

Settler Leader Claims Area of Jericho Enclave Enlarged

TA0704051894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] David Levi, the chairman of the Jordan Rift Valley Regional Council, says that according to an updated map he has seen, the boundaries of the Jericho autonomous enclave will be larger than what was recently agreed upon with the PLO. The town's boundaries have been expanded to include an area of several square kilometers to the south. The perimeters of the village of al-'Awja' have also been expanded almost up to the border fence. Levi told our correspondent Gil Litman that construction work on the Jericho bypass road has not yet begun.

Commentary Criticizes Rabin's Leadership

TA0504163394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Apr 94 p 9

[Commentary by Daniyel Ben-Simon: "A General More Than a Leader"]

[Text] Slowly and consistently, Yitzhaq Rabin has been losing supporters. Soon he will be marking his second anniversary in office, and we will be facing the same man we knew before: hesitant, suspicious, devoid of assertive leadership, loathe to delegate responsibility to the point of obsession, and a military man through and through. These problematic qualities are amply reflected in the arrangement emerging between Israel and the Palestinians. This is a military agreement more than a political one, because it is being formulated by generals and not by politicians. Supposedly, the imminent withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho will be the climax of the breathtaking drama on the White House lawn on 13 September. Six months have gone by and it turns out that people are not happy, neither on our side nor on theirs. Some people have been trying hard to spoil the fun.

Rabin's reelection as prime minister was one of the most mind- boggling manifestations of political recycling in contemporary times, and not just in Israel. His first year in service only strengthened the impression that here we had a new and fresh politician, very different from the prime minister we knew almost 20 years ago. Everything was going his way. He personally ran the country without neglecting any details. He demanded to know everything his cabinet ministers were doing—and justifiably so, considering that he chose them based on their qualifications. He closely followed the progress in building roads and overpasses, the state of poverty, the allocation of resources, the absorption of aliyah, and what not. The people liked his style. After years during which Yitzhaq Shamir evinced indifference, if not disregard, toward anything remotely reeking of socioeconomic issues, Yitzhaq Rabin was perceived as a refreshing change.

This was reflected in public opinion polls, which indicated vast support for his performance.

His popularity soared sky high after the signing of the agreement between Israel and the PLO in Washington. People walked down the streets with a smile in their heart. Except for the settlers who continued to mortify themselves and grieve in their ghettos, everybody felt elated. The world at large, tired of disappointments about peace initiatives gone sour, stared in bewilderment at Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's daring and determination. Even Menahem Begin, who signed the peace treaty with Egypt, did not evince such lavish praise.

In the eyes of the world and of many Israelis who saw themselves represented by this government, the signing of the Declaration of Principles symbolized the first act en route to the end of the occupation. What happened, however, is that instead of striving for this goal with kid gloves, in good faith and with awe, Rabin took peace by storm, as if it was a military operation. He shoved politicians and diplomats aside and placed the Army's top brass at the most sensitive junctions of the peace negotiations. As is known, it is hard for soldiers to change their spots overnight. Suddenly they found themselves sitting opposite people who until the night before they had laid in ambush for. They had a hard time making the change.

Rabin even had a harder time of it. He was the man who over the last 10 years, except for a brief two-year interval, formulated Israel's security policy in the territories. The intifadah broke out during his term in office and set the territories on fire. Instead of "taking his time to ponder over" the dramatic flare-up, he sent thousands of soldiers to the territories to quash it at gunpoint. Hundreds had to die, thousands had to be wounded and arrested before Rabin realized the limitations of force.

In his capacity as defense minister, Rabin drew the distinction between the PLO inside and outside the territories and devised peace initiatives aimed at driving them apart, as if they were pieces in a jigsaw puzzle. Only when he became prime minister did he realize that this was an imaginary distinction. He turned to 'Arafat, as if imbibing in some bitter medicine, and only after he came to the conclusion that the PLO was one single entity. Even after he signed the agreement, he conveyed the impression that he was not really thrilled about the whole business. At times he even seemed to regret having signed the deal.

Israelis who sided with him through thick and thin were suddenly confronted with a prime minister who was of two minds, who agonized and dragged his feet, was unenthusiastic, hesitant, and unassertive. Instead of overseeing the negotiations from the comfort of his position, Rabin chose to get involved with the minute details, which ranged from the ridiculous to the pathetic. At his instructions, his aides spent whole days on questions such as the type of security personnel that would be stationed at the border terminals in Gaza and Jericho and how many meters would separate the Israeli guard from the Palestinian one. Not to mention the glass partition at the terminal, its thickness, location, and transparency. Not to mention the type of electronic gadgetry that would replace bodily frisking of people crossing through the terminals.

The insistence on details in faraway capitals around the globe, coupled with the use of unprecedented firepower in the territories, did their bit. The public began losing its confidence in peace and in the negotiators. Day in and day out the prime minister could be seen grumbling, furious, threatening, and bickering about the Palestinian partner. Menahem Begin gave back the entire Sinai Peninsula, four times the size of Israel, without grumbling or bickering as frequently as Rabin. That same Begin was not scared by the right wing's threats or of sending his deputy to grovel before the Jewish ayatollahs to tone down their halakic edict. That same Begin evacuated settlements and was not deterred by allegations of a Jewish population transfer.

It is at these critical times that an eminent leader is needed. Begin was one such leader, inasmuch as the peace with Egypt was concerned. He adopted big decisions, and the public respected his determination and followed him. Rabin, on the other hand, projects the restlessness of a man who is not at peace with himself or with his actions. Frustration is the antithesis of leadership. His bleak mood radiates to the people who despair in the possibility of peace with the Palestinians. That is why there are no happy people these days.

Peace Talks Boycotted Until al-'Aqabah 'Siege' Resolved

JN0704163794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] The Hague—The environment committee of the multilateral Middle East peace negotiations met for one day of talks in the Hague today, Thursday.

Informed Foreign Ministry sources said Jordan did not send an official delegation to the session because we are still awaiting Washington's decision on the Port of al-'Aqabah blockade, anticipated this week.

Jordan, sources told AL-RA'Y, sent its ambassador in Rome Hasan Abu-Na'imah to the Hague meeting as an observer rather than participant.

Prince Hasan To Visit U.S. To Discuss 'Siege'

JN0704183294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] An authoritative Jordanian source has said Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal will head for Washington on 20 April on a working visit of several days to the United States. During the visit, Prince Hasan will try to obtain a solution of the problem of the maritime siege imposed on the Red Sea port of al-'Aqabah.

SAWT AL-SHA'B: 'Afula Bombing 'Legitimate Act of Jihad'

JN0704155994 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Apr 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: " 'Afula Operation Outshines All Expressions of Condemnation"]

[Text] It was natural that the Palestinian people's reaction to the "massacre of the age" perpetrated by Zionsts at the Ibrahimi Mosque be commensurate with its savagery. Hence the remarkable act of martyrdom effected by a Palestinian youth in 'Afula yesterday, 40 days after the Hebron carnage.

The Palestinian people's struggle using all means at their disposal is a legitimate act sanctioned by all divine and temporal laws. It is an action undertaken to uphold stolen national rights and to retaliate for the massacres and horrendous crimes committed against the Palestinian people over decades. Yesterday's reprisal was, therefore, a legitimate act of jihad; the Palestinian blood spilled on a daily basis by the gunfire of the Israeli occupiers is not as cheap as the enemy imagines. Every drop of blood spilled on the land of Palestine will kindle the spirit of challenge and heroism and nurture the values of courage and martyrdom typical of this great people who have endured the ugliest injustice in the modern age.

If the decline in Arab fortunes and the exceptional circumstances the Arab nation is going through are casting their shadow on the Palestinian cause, and have put the Arabs in an unenviable position in relation to the Israeli arrogance, the downturn is temporary, and may tempt some to think that statements of condemnation and denunciation are the only weapons we have. The truth, however, is that coercion, injustice, and humiliation are bound to erupt into an explosion. Our frustrations are something like a layer of ashes over a smoldering fire.

Jordan has often enough warned about the risks involved in Israel's repressive and terroristic tactics in the occupied Arab territories and the brazen breaches of the human rights of the Palestinians under occupation. His majesty has also sounded a note of warning that violence only begets violence.

The only way out of the tension gripping the region and the Palestinian territory in particular is the institution of a just, comprehensive, and enduring peace predicated on the land-for-peace formula and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Any agreements that foster injustice and do not meet these requirements have no chance.

The 'Afula act of martyrdom should sound the alarm to the permanent members of the UN Security Council, in particular the United States, that they need to pressure Israel to show more responsiveness to UN resolutions if it is serious about peace.

Ba'th Party Calls For End to Talks, Iraqi Embargo

JN0604163894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Text] Amman (INA)—The Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party- Higher Command has called on the Arab countries involved in the settlement with the Zionist entity to stop and immediately end the negotiations.

In a statement distributed in Amman yesterday, the party said that reality has proven that these negotiations constitute a danger to established Arab national rights. The party called for escalating the struggle by all ways and means in order to break the back of the aggressors who seek to dominate the Arab nation and plunder its resources.

The statement also explains that the continuation of the unjust blockade, which the United States and its allies have imposed on the Iraqi people for more than four years, is only aimed at subjugating great Iraq and its brave people to the policy of hegemony pursued by the U.S. Administration and its followers.

The statement refers to the piracy of U.S. fleets in inspecting, with various weak excuses and arguments, ships heading toward the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah, whether they are at sea or in Arab territorial waters.

The statement notes that this situation has created a siege on Jordan and has done great harm and damage to its economy and to national and pan-Arab interests.

Spanish Foreign Minister Solana Visits

Meets With Buwayz

NC0604183194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana arrived in Beirut from Cairo on a 24-hour visit to Lebanon during which he will meet the three leaders and hold talks with his counterpart Faris Buwayz. Immediately upon arrival, the Spanish minister headed for the Foreign Ministry, where he met Minister Buwayz.

Buwayz Comments on Talks

NC0604184594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] At around 1915, the official Lebanese-Spanish talks ended. They were chaired on the Lebanese side by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. [passage omitted]

The Spanish side to the talks was chaired by Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana. [passage omitted]

Afterward, Buwayz made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] We held a first round of talks with the Spanish foreign minister and his delegation. The talks touched on the situation in the Middle East, which is high on the list of priorities of the foreign minister's visit. We also addressed bilateral relations, in particular the economic and cultural ties between Lebanon and Spain. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Minister, did Solana brief you on the results of his meetings in Cairo with President Mubarak and 'Arafat? And have you received any indications that the peace process is moving forward?

[Buwayz] The minister's visit to Lebanon falls within the framework of a complete tour of the Middle East region. It seems he met Egyptian and Palestinian officials as well as some others. I sensed from the minister—and I hope this is true—that he is optimistic about the possibility of progress in the talks. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Solana Comments on Talks

NC0704065094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] After his meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana said that Lebanon is an important country in the region. He stressed the need to strengthen ties between Lebanon and Spain. He emphasized his country's commitment to the peace process in the Middle East. He hoped that the process that was launched from Madrid will continue. He said that discussion of the peace process is one of the goals of his visit to Lebanon. He noted Spanish-Lebanese understanding about reaching a fair solution to the Middle East problem. He pointed out that Minister Buwayz broached several points and Spain supports Lebanon's position on the peace negotiations, particularly implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. On the conditions required to make the peace process successful, Solana said: There is a working framework for negotiations on all tracks. In my view, the Palestinian track has achieved success and this result will appear in the next few days, which is mine and everyone's wish. I support what Minister Buwayz said, that the time factor is important for the progress of the negotiations. He said that any slowdown in the talks would not be in the interest of moderation or the parties concerned, but would open the way for extremists to obstruct the peace process in the Middle East. He said: Spain and Lebanon support the establishment of peace in the near future and we will defend this position.

Solana Meets Leaders

NC0704122794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana today visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. The discussions focused on topical issues, notably the peace talks, implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, and bilateral relations between Lebanon and Spain.

Solana first visited Prime Minister al-Hariri in his office in the Government Palace in the presence of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and the Spanish ambassador to Lebanon. Members of both delegations then proceeded to Barbur where they met with Speaker Nabih Birri.

At noon, Solana, accompanied by Buwayz and the Spanish ambassador, proceeded to the Presidential Palace in B'abda and met with President al-Hirawi who hosted them at lunch.

After these visits, Solana expressed his satisfaction with the very useful talks on Lebanese and Spanish positions on bilateral ties and the future. He stressed that Spain is interested in the peace talks in the Middle East. He said: I believe that all parties want to establish peace as soon as possible. He said: We hope that peace will be achieved quickly, a desire we share with all parties in the region.

Regarding pressure that Spain may exert toward implementation of Resolution 425, Solana said: We believe that all UN resolutions, including Resolution 425, must be implemented. He pointed out that the visit provided him with an opportunity to form a clear picture of Lebanon and the region. He said that after his talks with the region's leaders, it can be said that the crisis is near its end. He stressed that efforts are continuing to achieve a fair peace in the region. He noted that the economic situation in Lebanon is improving.

On Spain's commitment to support Lebanon's reconstruction, Solana said that a group of Spanish investors

will arrive in Lebanon for talks on ways of translating this cooperation into action.

Members of the Spanish and Lebanese delegations held a second round of talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The Lebanese delegation was led by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al- Hasan and the Spanish delegation by (Mora Tenis), director general of the African and Middle East desk in the Spanish Foreign Ministry. Ambassador al-Hasan said that the meeting focused on working out frameworks of cooperation agreements in the economic and cultural fields. Solana and his accompanying delegation will conclude their visit to Lebanon at 1600 today.

Solana Ends Visit, Departs

NC0704202094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The Spanish delegation, led by Foreign Minister Javier Solana, ended its visit to Lebanon after the foreign minister and his Lebanese counterpart, Faris Buwayz, met with the president, prime minister, and speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. The accompanying delegation members also concluded their talks with Foreign Ministry officials. The outlines for agreements on Lebanese-Spanish cooperation in economics and culture were formulated. [passage omitted]

The Spanish delegation left Beirut Airport this afternoon after being seen off by Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, the Spanish ambassador to Lebanon, several government and security officials, and Spanish Embassy staff members.

Columnist Views Christopher's Tour, U.S. Policy

NC0604134594 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Editorial by Muhammad al-Mashmushi: "The Naked U.S. Truth"]

[Text] No one would object, particularly in the Arab world, if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher makes his planned new tour of the region that the Americans call "the Middle East." However, this tour will not be useful if he visits under the conditions he himself specified, primarily that he will pressure no one—he naturally means Israel—to achieve progress on the road to a settlement.

Following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and Washington's stance on a Security Council resolution on it, let alone the constant Arab complaints about Israeli intransigence at the negotiating table, Christopher's statement on the tour seems to be asking the Arabs whether they want him to come and, consequently, if they are ready to make his tour useful.

The U.S. secretary is revealing here what no one needs to know any longer, although certain Americans and even some Arabs are trying to cover it up, as PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat did by accusing a "secret organization" of assassinating six Palestinians on the day before yesterday. The Yitzhaq Rabin government responded by awarding medals to its personnel yesterday. The United States as much as Israel is trying to make political gains from the daily repression, massacres, and individual and collective assassinations taking place in the occupied territories as well as even disavowals of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The Israelis and Americans constantly have their eyes on the negotiating table in Washington and what the Arabs can offer voluntarily or forcibly in favor of Israel and its strategy in the region, once on the pretext of security requirements, fear of another holocaust, or the new world order and the need for the Arab world to adjust itself with its requirements.

The United States does not deny any of these accusations. At times, it even boasts about them publicly. An extremely significant example, although not directly related to the U.S. Administration's stance on a settlement in the region and the fluctuations in the talks to confront the Arab stance on the Israeli intransigence about the Arab call for land for peace, is manifest in the U.S.-Zionist campaign to circulate the Jewish theory on which Israel was established—international persecution and the Nazi holocaust. The U.S. State Department released an official statement in the past few days denouncing a decision by the Indonesian and Malaysian Governments banning the movie Schindler's List made by a Jewish director who was awarded seven Oscars. Washington was not content with an indignant official denunciation. It adopted more than the hostile stance of releasing a statement that is rare in the history of relations among countries. The proof of this is that both countries backed down and permitted the film, but only after censoring certain sexual and nude scenes. Why? What is the reason for this stance? It is easy to say that it is because of the Zionist influence and media controlled by Jewish funds. However, the truth goes beyond that. The fact is declared brazenly that the current U.S. Administration is not American as much as it is Zionist regarding the issue of an Arab-Israeli settlement. Perhaps Christopher was admitting this naked truth when he spoke of his forthcoming tour. It makes no difference whether the tour takes place or not. He is telling the Arab world that this is the truth of the U.S. policy on a settlement, whether it is under the name of "full partner" or "honest broker," or any other.

Al-Asad, Khaddam Meet Iranian Parliamentary Delegation

JN0704140394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] At 1230 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani, Iranian deputy Majles speaker and chairman of the Majles Foreign Relations Committee, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly; Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly; and Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari-Foruqi.

Also at 0930 today, Vice President 'Abd-a-Halim Khaddam received Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani and his delegation. The meeting was attended by 'Adil Jamus, Shakir Is'ayyid, and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari-Foruqi.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region, the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the international state of affairs, and bilateral ties.

Further on Meeting

JN0704162494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] At 1230 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani, Iranian deputy Majles speaker and chairman of the Majles Foreign Relations Committee, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly; Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly; and Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari-Foruqi.

Ruhani conveyed to the president two messages. The first message is from Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran. The second message is from Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Talks dealt with the situation and developments in the region and bilateral relations.

Iran's Ruhani Meets Other Officials

JN0704190594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Iranian parliamentary delegation led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani, Iranian deputy Majles speaker, held several meetings in Damascus with the pro-Iran Iraqi opposition factions, such as al- Da'wah Party and the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution. Ruhani was quoted as saying that those who depend on the United States to liberate Iraq will be disappointed because the United States wants to control Iraq.

Ruhani also held talks with the 10 Palestinian factions that oppose the Gaza-Jericho accord. He also held talks in Damascus with representatives of the Hizballah and the Islamic resistance in Lebanon. Following his meeting with those representatives, Ruhani stressed the importance of a united Islamic resistance stand, reiterating Iran's readiness to continue to support Islamic resistance against Israeli schemes.

In a statement to Monte Carlo, Palestinian sources denied any Iranian financial siege on Hizballah and the Islamic Jihad. They stressed that the delay in Iranian financial aid in October 1993 was caused by a financial crisis in the Bank of Iran. This was communicated to them by the Iranian leadership in a written letter. The Palestinian sources said this temporary delay completely ended by December 1993.

Further on Khaddam, Ruhani Talks

LD0704191594 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus, April 7, IRNA—Visiting Vice-Speaker of Iran's Majles Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani and Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam discussed important developments in the region as well as international issues and matters of mutual interest here today.

Deploring the crimes being committed by the Zionist regime, Ruhani said that Israel through such practices has proved that it was not seeking to attain peace and stability in the region or let Palestinians achieve their legitimate rights. The Zionist regime, under the increasing pressure from the intifada and frustrated in its attempt to suppress the Palestinian uprising, has resorted to negotiations to maintain its security and get a grip on the region's economic resouces, Ruhani said. He stressed that Iran will stand by the Syrian Government and nation in their confrontation with the Qods occupying regime. As for Tehran-Damascus ties Ruhani epressed pleasure over the intimate relations between the two countries and voiced Iran's readiness for further expansion of ties in all domains including parliamentary and economic areas.

Khaddam said that despite the passage of 30 months after the start of [word indistinct] Israeli negotiations, there has been no progress in the so-called peace talks. He added that it was unlikely for Israel and Syria to end hostility in a near future. The Zionist regime, he said, was dreaming of taking control of the region and materializing its hegemonist goals. Khaddam reiterated that nobody should think that the struggle against the Zionist regime would end. The Syrian vice president, too, welcomed the idea of broadening bilateral ties through continuous contacts between Tehran and Damascus.

In another development Ruhani met with general secretary of the Lebanese Progressive Party Walid Junblatt at Iran's Embassy here today where the latter briefed him on the lateut developments in Lebanon. Ruhani expressed hope that the Lebanese people would manage to bring about solid unity between Islamic and nationalistic forces in that country. He called on the Lebanese people to neutralize the enemy's plot to sow discord among them, assuring them that nations always win over aggressors.

Ruhani, who is here on a five-day official visit, said that Iran will continue to support the Lebanese people in their just defence against Zionist crimes. Junblatt stressed that as long as southern Lebanon is under Israeli occupation, resistance in the occupied territories will continue.

Al-Asad, Ruhani Discuss Peace Process

LD0704214494 Tehran IRNA in English 2046 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus, April 7, IRNA—Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani discussed major regional issues and international developments with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad here today.

During the meeting which lasted more than two hours Hoj. Ruhani also conveyed a verbal message from President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani to his Syrian counterpart.

Hoj. Ruhani described the Zionist regime as the "origin of the unrests in the sensitive Middle East region" and said this regime spoke of peace spuriously in an effort to take advantage of the regional resources.

"Peace is in contradiction with the very nature of this usurper regime," he added.

Referring to the massacre of the palestinian worshippers in al-Khalil [Hebron], Ruhani regretted that some elements who consider themselves as the representatives of the Palestinian nation fell into humiliation by signing compromising deals, and in fact committed treason against the holy Palestinian ideal. He predicted that the Palestinian intifidah and Islamic resistance in Lebanon which are supported by Iran and Syria and the Islamic ummah at large, would bear fruit, and restore the trampled rights of the Palestinian nation.

On the hajj pilgrimage, Ruhani said in the wake of the agreement signed by the Iranian and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers, the non-cooperation of the Saudi officials to provide facilities for more Iranian pilgrims is "unjustifiable".

President al-Asad in reply said the similarity of the Iranian and Syrian positions concerning most of the important regional issues as well as their resistance against the threats of the Zionist regime were the root of the global arrogance hostilities against the both countries. On the so-called Middle East peace talks President al-Asad said the talks had not so far borne any results. "Syria does not hope the talks to end in any just results," he added.

Stressing that Syria would not overlook the trampled rights of the brotherly Palestinian nation under any circumstances, the president said his country was not ready to accept the planned peace with the Zionist regime even if the talks lasted for decades. He noted that Iran and Syria are targets of the propaganda attacks by the global arrogance led by the U.S. due to their independent and anti-Zionist stances.

"The accusations like violation of human rights and terrorism and the last one, i.e., anti-drug campaign will be removed, if we step back from our righteous stances," the president said.

Expressing pleasure with the level of Tehran-Damascus cooperation, President al-Asad expressed hope that he would visit Iran in a near future.

Speech-Rally Marks Anniversary of Ba'th Party

JN0704125694

[Editorial Report] Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic, in a linkup with Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 7 April begins a live relay of the ceremony marking the 47th anniversary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party from the Damascus University auditorium.

The ceremony begins with a poem by the master of ceremonies hailing the Ba'th Party and its leader President Hafiz al-Asad. This was followed by a one-minute silence in honor of the late Basil al-Asad and martyrs of the Ba'th Party and Arab nation. This is followed by the Ba'th Party anthem.

Among those present at the ceremony are Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister; 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party; 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president; Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president, ministers; and other top government and party officials.

At 0910 S'uad Bakkur, chairwoman of the Syrian Women General Federation, delivers the speech of the popular organizations and trade unions. She refers to the Ba'th Party's struggle for Palestine and against colonialism. Speaking about the al-Asad-led Corrective Movement, she is interrupted twice by an unidentified person reciting poems in a clear Iraqi accent hailing the party and al-Asad. The speaker refers to Syria's local and Arab achievements during al-Asad's presidency. She reiterates the Syrian position on peace and the call for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

At 0930 Fayiz Isma'il, member of the National Progressive Front's Central Command and secretary general of the Unionists Socialists Party delivers the speech of the National Progressive Front. He recalls the history of the Ba'th Party and its founders and members and their

struggle. The speaker is interrupted by a poet who recites a poem on pan-Arabism. Isma'il then speaks about the unity between Syria and Egypt and the plot that foiled that unity. He refers to the Corrective Movement and the positive changes introduced by this movement.

At 0958 GMT the master of ceremonies recites a short poem on the Ba'th Party and the 7th April anniversary.

At 1000 GMT 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, who is representing President al- Asad at the rally, delivers the Ba'th Party speech. He begins by speaking about the annual celebration of the party's anniversary and conveys the greetings of al-Asad and the Ba'th leadership. Al-Ahmar eulogizes the late Basil al-Asad and is interrupted by a poet reciting a poem hailing Basil al-Asad.

While speaking about Arab unity, al-Ahmar is interrupted by the Iraqi poet, who recites a short poem hailing al-Asad and criticizing Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, stressing that Saddam should quit. Al-Ahmar continues to speak about Arab unity, the crisis it is facing, and the Ba'th ideology for attaining this unity.

He elaborates on the Ba'th Party's struggle and thoughts and on the efforts made by President al-Asad to unleash the capabilities of the Party and Syria. He refers to political and economic pluralism in Syria and the development program in the country as well as national unity.

He says Syria is working to realize Arab solidarity with the aim of restoring the occupied territories and rights, and stresses that the right to self-defense and to defend land and rights are guaranteed by all laws.

Al-Ahmar emphasizes: "As in the past, al-Asad's Syria today will not be dissuaded from its pan-Arab role that defends the Arab rights by any pressures, false accusations, or unjust lists, on which the Zionist lobby insists." He says this lobby is trying to harm Syrian-U.S relations and to influence Syrian peace positions. He adds "this lobby, and its assistants, are annoyed because of Syria's adherence to its Arab rights and constants and the diplomatic successes it realized, which were clearly manifested in Syria's dealing with the peace process."

On the peace process, al-Ahmar reiterates the Syrian call for a just and comprehensive peace, and refers to the Syrian efforts to render this process successful. He says: "Syria does not accept that this process be derailed from its specified track, and the formula agreed on in Madrid." He says Israel maneuvered to obstruct this process in a bid to impose capitulation on the Arabs. He is interrupted by a group of young men chanting patriotic Palestinian songs.

He refers to the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the church explosion in Lebanon, which he says were aimed to obstruct the peace process. He says "the Security Council Resolution 904 shows that the whole world began to complain about Israel's terrorist behavior." On the church explosion, he says that it exposed those who have links with Israel. He is interrupted by people chanting slogans hailing Syrian-Lebanese relations and by the Iraqi poet who recites a poem hailing al-Asad's position at the Geneva summit with President Bill Clinton. Al-Ahmar stresses that Syria will not relinquish any Arab right and insists on having just and full peace in the region.

Speaking about international issues, al-Ahmar notes that the end of the Cold War has not brought world peace, and that conflicts and wars broke out in several places.

Al-Ahmar Addresses Ba'th Anniversary Rally

JN0704163194 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, ASBP, at a ceremony marking the ASBP's 47th anniversary, in Damascus on 7 April—live]

[Excerpts] Comrades, masses of our struggler nation, struggler Ba'thists everywhere. Just as the Earth celebrates the blossoms of April, every year our struggler Arab masses celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of our great party, the ASBP. [passage omitted]

Comrades, on the 47th anniversary of the establishment of the ASBP, I have the honor to convey to you on this great anniversary, and through you to all the party's strugglers and to all Arab strugglers, the greetings and congratulations of the first Ba'thist, the leader of the march of our people and nation, struggler comrade President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] At the same time, it pleases me to convey to you greetings and congratulations from the party leadership, and its wishes for further success on the road to the objectives of the party and the masses: Unity, freedom, and socialism. [passage omitted reviewing ASBP history, principles, and achievements]

Al-Asad's Syria today, with all worthiness, carries pan-Arab concerns. It will not allow the loss of Arab rights. It is capable of raising the cultural pan-Arab banner that is the honorable image of our nation despite the difficult times through which this nation is passing. The Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton is considered an event that confirmed that Syria's leader, the great Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad, [applause] constitutes, before the world, the true image and the nation's cultural face, committed to rights, pride, and dignity. Within this framework, Syria is working to reinforce Arab solidarity based on the ASBP's great pan-Arab principles, to bolster the Arabs' role, and to coordinate their efforts to liberate their occupied territories, restore their usurped rights, and defend themselves in the face of the challenges that threaten their present and future in a way that proves that they reject humiliation, submission, and capitulation to fait accompli. The right to defend oneself, land, and rights, is a right recognized by all the world's laws and charters. Struggle for liberation is also a right and a national duty to every people whose land was occupied and whose rights were violated. Al-Asad's Syria, just as it was in the past, will

not be prevented from playing its pan-Arab role in defending Arab rights by any pressure, false accusations, and unjust lists on which the Zionist lobby insists. For a long time, this lobby has been used to working in the United States to drag its administration into creating a rift in Syrian-U.S. relations, and to try to disrupt Syria's position toward the peace process, especially since this lobby and its henchmen are angered by Syria's abidance with Arab rights and constants, and by the diplomatic successes it has made, which were clearly displayed by Syria's dealing with the peace process through adherence to Arab rights, and confrontation of Israel's intransigence and crude terrorism.

Comrades, brothers: Based on all this, Syria has offered great pan-Arab sacrifices to support brothers everywhere. By doing so, it had no motives other than the great pan-Arab motive, which is entrenched in ASBP ideology and thought which was expanded and enriched by the thought of the honest leader Hafiz al-Asad and his limitless sacrifices. [applause] It is the pan-Arab understanding of the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is the pivot of the activities of al-Asad's Syria and its struggle within the framework of achieving a just and comprehensive solution to this conflict based on restoring the occupied Arab territories and the usurped rights in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the land for peace principle. Syria joined the peace process in the region, which is based on the international legitimacy, more than two years ago in order to be a means to achieving clear objectives, whose contents were included in UN Security Council Resolutions No. 242, 338, and 425, and the land for peace formula. It has exerted continuous efforts to contribute to the success of this process and to achieve its objectives of establishing a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace. However, Israel has not stopped, through its maneuverings and practices since the outset of the peace process, to obstruct this process and to divert it from its basic objectives, as part of its plans to impose capitulation on the Arabs.

Comrades, Syria does not agree that this process should be derailed from its specified track, and the formula agreed on in Madrid. Syria has confronted, and is resolutely confronting all the Israeli maneuvering, intransigence, and attempts to evade the requirements and prerequisites of peace, foremost of which are the withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights. [applause] Israel is still resorting to the means that enable it to divert the peace process from its objective. After it dealt separately with the Palestinian side through the Oslo agreement in an attempt to strike at Arab coordination and to weaken the Arab position, it perpetrated the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, whose hideousness is beyond any one's imagination. It was also behind the massacre perpetrated at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church. The objective behind all this is to abort peace efforts and to foil the Arabs' efforts to restore their rights and territories. The UN Security Council's denunciation of the abhorrent holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, through its Resolution No. 904, shows that the whole world began to complain about Israel's terrorist behavior, and began to expose Israel's intransigence and adherence to fascism and occupation. This is despite the fact that the resolution itself is not commensurate with the hideous nature of the crime. Nor does it constitute sufficient deterrence to the terrorist behavior of which Israel has been known since the beginning of its continuous aggression against the Arabs.

Comrades, brothers: The quick pursuit of those who exploded the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Lebanon has exposed those involved in successive explosions. They are linked with Israel and work to execute its schemes. This proves the fraternal people of Lebanon are determined to foil Israeli plots to reinvolve Lebanon in acts of violence and to disrupt its efforts to achieve stability and national accord, and to liberate southern Lebanon. These plots use the most hideous and the crudest means of terrorism, as we saw at Sayyidat al-Najat Church and before, and as we see in what is taking place in occupied southern Lebanon everyday. The measures the Lebanese Government has taken to confront the conspirators against Lebanon's security and stability, and to confront all those who would contribute to returning Lebanon to the whirlpool of violence and fighting, were received with great satisfaction inside and outside Lebanon. These measures, which are backed by Syria, have contributed to exposing tools manipulated from outside Lebanon in order to implement Israeli schemes. These measures have exposed Israel's intentions against Lebanon. They prove the march of security and accord in Lebanon is stronger than all who want this fraternal country to return to the climate of war, violence, and destruction. [applause]

Comrades, brothers: The struggle of our zealous kinsfolk in the Golan and their valiant confrontation of the occupation troops, the valiant Palestinian intifadah in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the heroic Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon, are all important factors that integrate with Syria's struggle to impose the Arab right on an intransigent Israel that wants peace with land. As its leader, the great Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad [applause] said, Syria will not relinquish a single inch of the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories. Neither will it give up any Arab rights. Syria is confronting all the obstacles Israel places on the road to peace with the objective of arriving at a just and comprehensive peace in the region that restores full Arab rights and territories to their people, and opens the doors of free development and progress to the region's peoples, avoiding aggression, hegemony, tyranny, and occupation.

Comrades, based on the humanitarian dimension of the pan-Arab movement and the Arab nation's civilization and culture, the ASBP established a network of relations with several parties, organizations, and liberation movements, to gain the greatest possible support for our Arab issues, and to confront the world's misleading Zionist

media. These relations are part of the peoples' common struggle to build a world free of all forms of aggression, hegemony, tyranny, and the policy of variable standards—a world based on justice, equality, and respect for every people's right to opt for their own way of development with complete freedom.

Developments in the international arena prove the end of the Cold War has not brought security, stability, and peace, as indicated by the slogans that accompanied its end. The number of conflicts, tensions, and civil wars has increased. They have escalated in several countries, such as Afghanistan, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Soviet Republics, and in other countries and continents. These countries feel they are left to fight, as if they exist outside this world. In fact, the policies of hegemony and tyranny, and the hostility to Arabs and Muslims, have increased the pains of peoples and made their causes a field for external interference and a game for the balances of power and interests in the world.

Comrades: We stress that world peace, security, and stability, are an indivisible whole. It is necessary to consider all peoples' interests and aspirations, aside from all forms of fascism, Zionism, hegemony, and tyranny, and aside from the policies of aggression, nuclear arms, and mass destruction weapons stockpiled by those who took the policy of aggression and hegemony against peoples as a profession. Taking all peoples' interests into consideration is an indispensable condition for building a new world order based on democracy in international relations, on justice, equality, and mutual respect, and on eliminating the current discrimination among the world's poor and rich, north, and south.

Comrades, based on a rich experience gradually built by the party until it grew and became strong, and proceeding from the sacrifices and energies of a great leader who is leading the contemporary pan- Arab struggle, the honest leader Hafiz al-Asad [applause]—based on all this, we are optimistic about the future. On this occasion, the party's 47th anniversary, we renew the pledge to pursue the march with a greater determination and stronger enthusiasm behind our honest, symbol leader Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] A march that is led by Hafiz al-Asad has no choice but to go ahead toward further victories and achievements.

Comrades, on this occasion, on behalf of you, all the party's strugglers, and all the Arab strugglers, I send heartfelt greetings and congratulations to the leader of the march of our people and nation, the secretary general of the party, and the president of the republic, struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] Greetings to all the Ba'thist strugglers in the entire greater Arab homeland. Greetings to our struggler Arab masses, the source of the party's inspiration and the minaret of its policies and march. Greetings to our steadfast kinsfolk in the heroic Golan. Greetings to the sons of our people, the heroes of the heroic Palestinian intifadah, to the valiant resistance men in southern Lebanon, and to all Arab strugglers. All greetings to the leader of the march of our people, party, and nation to victory and liberation, the honest leader, struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad. [applause]

Khaddam, Hizballah Secretary Stress Continuation of Jihad

NC0704185894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] A Lebanese Hizballah delegation headed by Hasan Nasrallah, the party secretary general, held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus last night. In a statement issued in Beirut, Hizballah said the delegation and the Syrian vice president discussed developments in the region and the ongoing and increasing Zionist acts of aggression against south Lebanon. The statement said the two sides stressed the need to continue jihad against the Zionist campaigns against south Lebanon.

India

Visiting PRC Vice Foreign Minister Interviewed on GATT

BK0804101594 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The vice foreign minister of China, Mr. Liu Huaqiu, said that his country wants to become a contracting party in the GATT to globalize its economy. Mr. Liu is participating in the ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] conference currently in session in New Delhi. In an exclusive interview to Doordarshan correspondent Prabhat Dabral, Mr. Liu said that the farmers of his country will welcome the conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

[Begin recording] [Dabral] What is the immediate provocation for you, Mr. Liu, as the country of socialist economy to apply for the membership of GATT?

[Liu, in Chinese with superimposed translation into English] China has all along being carrying out reforms and opening up policy and the diverse measures and steps we have taken in economic reforms [and] opening up are also in keeping with the requirements of GATT. For instance, in the trade sector, as you know, trade—the drive for economic growth—also leads to high world trade and the trade is playing ever-growing role. So, China would also upgrade the provision of the GATT in trying to play a more active part in international trade.

[Dabral] China, like India is also predominantly agriculture-based economy. What do you think the farmers of China stand to gain from the GATT, especially from the Uruguay Round of negotiations or shall we say the Dunkel text?

[Liu, in Chinese with superimposed translation into English] On one hand, we should protect the interests of Chinese farmers by improving their income situation every year. On the other hand, we should also bring our agricultural products to the international market [words indistinct] buy from and also sell into the international market. By so doing, we will push China's agricultural sector into the international market, and in this way we can also take advanced experience of technology from the international market which again [words indistinct] on account of agricultural development. [end recording]

Daily: U.S. Attempt To Link F-16's, NPT 'Unacceptable'

BK0804110294 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 2 Apr 94 p 12

[By M.K. Dhar]

[Text] NEW DELHI, 1 April—U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who is arriving here on 6 April, will be clearly told that even though India is interested in knowing the Clinton Administration's views on resolving Indo-Pak differences, linking of F-16 supply to Pakistan with a grand design of nonproliferation in South Asia is unacceptable to it.

India feels that the issue of Pakistan's nuclear capability and its capping is a bilateral matter between Islamabad and Washington. It cannot be expected to make a matching commitment to a proposition which strikes at the root of nonproliferation and legitimises Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

Mr. Talbott, who is expected to meet Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and other Union Ministers and have discussions with Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan and External Affairs Ministry officials, is likely to unfold his package to establish a verifiable, comprehensive non-proliferation regime in the subcontinent by capping nuclear capabilities of both India and Pakistan and also suggesting a multilateral dialogue on arms control.

The incentives he has to offer to India to comply with the Clinton Administration's requirements are not known, but what is talked about privately refers to raising the threshold on technologies that have so far been denied to it. The suggestion for a U.S.-sponsored West Asia Type Indo-Pak dialogue on Kashmir and other issues has been informally mooted but the Indian reaction will be known only when Mr. Talbott spells out his proposals in detail.

At present, India is unwilling to commit itself to any such negotiations without knowing their scope and usefulness. It will not accept anything which amounts to compromising its principles because on issues, such as, non-proliferation and Kashmir it is not easy to reconcile the views held by India and Pakistan, which has found a supporter in the Clinton Administration for its nuclear adventurist role in South Asia.

The Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Robin Raphel, who spent five days here, has already tested the temperature and seen the disposition of New Delhi, will brief Mr. Talbott on her discussions with the Indian leaders and also accompany him on his tour of India and Pakistan. Though Ms. Raphel kept a low profile during her discussions in New Delhi and avoided raking up fresh controversies, she did not yield ground on any aspect of the policies that have been laid down for the Clinton Administration in relation to India and Pakistan. It is, therefore, unlikely that any further pressures from the U.S. over the nonproliferation issue will work so long as India's legitimate security requirements are not met and its concept of complete and universal disarmament is not accepted.

The Indian Government believe that the Clinton administration has already taken the decision to supply 36 F-16 aircraft and an unspecified number of P-3 Orion antisubmarine warfare planes through one-time exception of the Pressler Amendment which currently bars U.S. military aid to Pakistan. In order to get the support of the Congress to the move, the administration is linking it with a broader South Asia initiative on non-proliferation including capping of the nuclear capabilities of both India and Pakistan.

But, in effect, Washington is back-sliding on its accepted policy of non-proliferation in South Asia. It is pre-empting the whole purpose of the bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan by proposing a barter. F-16s, as India has pointed out, can be easily modified to deliver nuclear weapons as Pakistan had done in the case of the aircraft it received prior to the Pressler ban.

Mr. Talbott will surely be told that India is the biggest victim of proliferation in the region and the U.S. has condoned acquisition of nuclear capability by Pakistan and is trying to formalise it so that Islamabad can indulge in the game of adventurism and blackmail. Therefore, the concept of forcing India and Pakistan to comply with U.S. non-proliferation goals while adding to Islamabad's offensive capability through the supply of F-16 and other aircraft, is totally unacceptable to India. The supply of F-16s will decisively shift the military balance in the region in Pakistan's favour, India does not accept the argument that because of its superior ground forces it is not facing a real threat from Pakistan as there are limitations to deploying forces on a single front. While Pakistan will have, in addition to the F16s, M-11 and other missiles supplied to it by China deployed against India, New Delhi is being strongly advised against deploying the Prithvi missiles along its borders.

Though Pakistan is theoretically under sanctions over the issue of missile supplies from China, it is widely known that Beijing has maintained supplies of components of M-11 missiles with a range of more than 300 km. Therefore, there are no takers for the argument that resumption of American arms supply to Pakistan will not change the strategic balance in the subcontinent.

Head of Atomic Energy Department on Nuclear Energy Usage

BK0804103194 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 2 Apr 94 p 12

[Text] NEW DELHI, 1 April—India is far ahead of China and Pakistan in making use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and emerging as an advanced country in this field, Dr. R. Chidambaram, Chairman, Department of Atomic Energy said here today.

While China has (?two) operational nuclear power plants and Pakistan only one, India has nine operational nuclear power plants and generates about 1720 MW of power which is approximately three per cent of the total power generation of the country, Dr. Chidambaram said in an exclusive interview.

He said that the country had developed expertise in all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle and had created indigenous capabilities in designing construction and operation of nuclear power plants, reprocessing of spent fuel, and manufacture of the necessary sophisticated equipment.

Capabilities had been created right from exploration and mining atomic minerals; preparation of high purity nuclear materials, such as uranium, thorium, zirconium etc.; production of fuel elements for reactors; production of heavy water and health and safety instrumentation of nuclear waste management, he said.

Dr. Chidambaram said that the prime objective of the atomic energy programme was development, control and use of atomic energy solely for peaceful purposes. These included generation of electricity and development of nuclear applications in research, agriculture, industry, medicine, and other areas.

To achieve this objective, efforts were initiated to build a versatile infrastructure for research facilities, trained scientific and technical manpower, raw material processing centres and the know-how and capability to manufacture nuclear components and electronic equipment to support the atomic energy programme with a view to making India truly self-reliant, he said.

As a result of these efforts, Dr. Chidambaram observed that India had broken the super power monopoly in this field and the country was today in a position to export research reactors and heavy water, subject to international safeguards.

"Today, nine units of nuclear power plants are in operation in the country with a total capacity of 1720 MW. The work in respect of Rajasthan Atomic Power Projects III and IV, and a unit of Kaiga Atomic Power Project in Karnataka, each unit of 220 MW, would be commissioned soon", Dr. Chidambaram informed.

He said that the Tarapur Atomic Power Station, Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, Madras Atomic Power Station, Narora Atomic Power Station and Unit I of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project were presently operational. The second 220 MW unit of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project is expected to achieve criticality shortly, he added.

Dr. Chidambaram admitted that India's nuclear programme target of generating 10,000 MW of power by the end of this century had been slowed down due to a financial crunch. However, he said that such a crisis was being faced by all public sector units and the country's nuclear programme was no exception.

The Nuclear Power Corporation was striving to increase its internal resource generation. Today our nuclear power stations could generate an internal surplus of about Rs. [rupees] 100 crore, but with the addition of Rajasthan and Karnataka units our internal resource generation would touch almost Rs. 400 crore by 1997-98, he said.

Dr. Chidamabaram was of the view that at some stage going public would be necessary, and that there was tremendous scope for joint ventures in this field. Referring to low operating performance of nuclear power plants, which is lower than international standards, Dr. Chidambaram said that difficulties were being faced in integrating the nuclear power stations with the grid

resulting in low operating performance. These problems were, however, being sorted out.

Referring to the safety aspect of nuclear power plants, Dr. Chidambaram said that the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, an independent body, oversaw and regulated all activities to enforce safety-related aspects of atomic power plants. "The guidelines followed are in conformity with international standards, such as those prescribed by the International Commission on Radiological Protection," he asserted.

Dr. Chidambaram said that safety was incorporated in all phases of a nuclear power project or activities starting right from the selection of site. Safety, well engineered into the system as per current international standards, was pursued in fabrication of equipment, construction phases and maintained during operation phase, with review by multi-tier committees at different levels. Plans for emergency preparedness had also been implemented, he said.

Recently, the standing committee on energy of the Lok Sabha in its fourth report on "Nuclear Plan Safety and Spent Fuel Management" which was placed in Parliament last month, has held that the commitment of the Department of Atomic Energy to safety was total. The committee found that care for protection of environment was imbibed in the form of regular procedures for site design and operations of all plants. It observed that the Department of Atomic Energy adhered to site safety features, including protection against earth quakes and associated phenomena, extreme meteorological phenomena such as cyclones, floods etc. and man-induced events such as aircraft crash, fire, explosions, and toxic chemical handling.

The committee findings revealed that nuclear industry in the country had established a satisfactory safety record. There have been no fatalities caused by radiation, nor any sigificant occupational radiation injuries of any kind detrimental to the public or the environment, at any of the Indian nuclear facilities.

The committee noted that India accorded top priority to management of radioactive wastes right from the beginning of the Indian nuclear programme.

Iran

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD0704192894 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA— Foreign Minister of Yemen Muhammad Salim Basindwah arrived here Thursday with a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani. He was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Upon arrival at the airport Basindwah called for the strengthening of Tehran-Sanaa relations which he said date back to pre-Islamic era. He [word indistinct] confident that the two countries will enter into a new era of cooperation through further expansion of their brotherly ties.

As for the differences between Yemeni president and the vice-president, Salih said the situation in Yemen was not so bad as reflected by foreign mass media outside that country. Commenting on the likelihood of Iran's mediation efforts, he said that Yemen welcomed all mediation efforts. However, he said, the issue of Yemen could be solved solely by Yemenis themselves.

Velayati, Yemeni Minister Note Bilateral Ties

LD0704221094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During a meeting on Thursday evening between the foreign minister of Yemen and Mr. Velayati, our foreign minister, the two parties exchanged views on the historical ties between the two countries and regional and Islamic issues. They also expressed their interest in expanding and strengthening bilateral relations and stressed the need for the unity and solidarity of Islamic countries in order to neutralize the malicious plans of the enemies of Islam.

At the meeting, Mr. Velayati expressed our country's support for Yemeni unity and said that a solution for Yemen's problems and the existence of a strong and united Yemen are to the benefit of peace and stability in the region. He added: Those who want to create discord in the united ranks of Muslims have no interest in a united Yemen.

Our foreign minister, pointing out that alien powers cannot guarantee the region's security, stressed: The expansion of cooperation among Islamic countries is required for strengthening the world of Islam. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that if such a cooperation had been prevalent in the Islamic world, the enemies of Islam would not have dared occupy Palestine, which is at the heart of the Islamic countries.

Mr. Muhammad Salim Basindwah, the Yemeni foreign minister, described the Islamic Republic of Iran as an important regional power and called for the expansion of bilateral relations.

Senior Clerics Oppose Resumption of Ties with U.S.

LD0704184694 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili and Ayatollah Azari-Qomi in an interview with a daily here Thursday emphasized that the anti-American stance of the Islamic revolution in Iran should continue.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, Tehran's substitute Friday prayer leader and former chief justice, told the morning daily 'SALAM' that those who imagined ties with the U.S. would help them make progress, were making a big blunder. Because, he stressed, in its relations with other nations, the U.S. adheres to no specific objective but its hegemonistic aims.

Also commenting on relations with the U.S., Ayatollah Azari-Qomi told the daily that it was to the benefit of the Islamic Republic and Islam not to have ties with Washington. The ayatollah, a theologian at Qom Seminary, further added that although the Islamic Republic of Iran had fully severed ties with the U.S., still whispers were being heard inside the country on the resumption of ties with Washington. "These murmurs should be stopped under any circumstances and this could be done by the people themselves."

Stressing that the slogan 'Down with the U.S.' should have a wider dimension, Ayatollah Azari-Qomi called on the press and officials to inform the public of the positive outcome of having no ties with the U.S.

Rowhani Returns From Syria, Comments on Talks

NC0804055694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria believe that peace talks with the Zionist regime are nothing but a plot and no peace awaits the region. This was stated by Majles Deputy Speaker Hasan Rowhani, who had gone to Syria at the head of a delegation, after his return to Tehran last night. He said that his talks with Syrian officials and combatant Palestinian and Lebanese groups covered Middle East problems and recent developments in the occupied territories.

The Majles deputy speaker added that in these talks all the combatant Palestinian and Lebanese groups emphasized the fact that under current sensitive conditions, arrogance should be strongly confronted and the disgrace of compromise with the Zionists should not be accepted. He said that talks with these groups, which focused on the consolidation and continuation of the struggle against world arrogance and the Zionist regime, were fruitful.

During his visit to Syria, in addition to his discussions with the Syrian president and other officials, Rowhani also met with some Hizballah deputies in the Lebanese parliament.

Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Various Issues

LD0704233194

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian at 1530 GMT carries its regular "Political Roundtable" program. The guest in the 50-minute program is Hojjat ol-Eslam Mostafa Ha'eri-Fumani, director general of the Persian Gulf desk of the Iranian Foreign Ministry. He is interviewed by an unidentified correspondent on the topic of the stance of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] following the recent foreign ministers meeting in Riyadh, and the hajj issue. The program follows its usual format of approximately five-minute video reports interspersed with questions and answers.

The first report repeats a Foreign Ministry statement in response to the final communique of the GCC summit in Riyadh, after which the correspondent asks:

"Mr. Fumani, although it was expected of the members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC] to stress, in their final statement, the agreeable and positive aspects of relations between members and regional countries, we see the final statement causing greater tension among regional countries. What is your evaluation of this sessions's final statement?"

Fumani replies: "In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you pointed out, it is a source of astonishment. In a situation where the Islamic world, international society, and in particular our region—which is very sensitive—need tranquility and where Islamic countries need cooperative thinking, a united vision, and cooperation, we witness meetings which are producing results that contradict the needs of Muslim people and nations, are more likely to create divisions and tensions among nations, and issue statements and acts in line with this.

"It seems to me that the final statement of the 50th session of the foreign ministers of the PGCC cannot be evaluated separately. These days we are witnessing acts that tend to intensify divisions inside and outside the region. For example, PGCC members have had differences and contradictions in the past. But their differences have intensified these days. You must have witnessed this; it was also in the international media. For instance, divisions which erupted between Kuwait and Qatar. Or previous differences between Qatar and Saudi Arabia which have been again intensified and are well on the agenda. In the session of the member countries of the PGCC, a significant part of the discussions were on differences among themselves. Furthermore, news available here and there and in the media indicates that some member countries intensified contradictions with their neighbors, such as what we are witnessing in Yemen. Well, after a long separation and following a desire by the nations of the former South and North Yemen as well as the peoples of the region, the two Yemens united and moved on the path of unity. But we are now witnessing intense differences between the north and the south, and we see some regional countries and even some members of the PGCC aggravating the difficulties and contradictions between these countries. Or things that we possibly see in the intensification of domestic differences in Afghanistan—where a selfless and struggling

nation managed to bring down its enemy and take over the management of the country's affairs. But now they are suffering from differences. Some Islamic countries, in the region, instead of helping, are intensifying the differences. There are the things that we see in the statement of the 50th session regarding the Islamic Republic. Issues regarding the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and the baseless claims made by one of these countries, the United Arab Emirates. Of course this is not the first time that the claims have been made, for the case has a 20-year history. It has been made four or five times. But it has intensified recently. Taking into account the international situation and the situation in the Middle East, taking into account the fact that some persons outside the region wish to impose a prepared and predetermined plan on regional countries; taking into account the long struggle against the Zionist enemy in some countries; and taking into account the fact that the Islamic world needs cooperation and unity; and taking into account the crafty acts of the Zionist regime and the killing of Muslims—the killing of innocents at a time of prayer and fasting—it is necessary for Muslims to unite in order to attain their ideals and goals."

These remarks are followed by a report on background to the GCC and a repeat of a commentary on the GCC's stance toward the issue of the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

Asked to assess Iran's relations with the PGCC member countries, Fumani replies: "Our neighboring countries, particularly the states that are situated in the southern section of the Persian Gulf, or in other words, members of the PGCC, had previously also made wrong a analysis and this is not the first time they have fallen for a wrong analysis. During the Iraqi war against Iran they made a wrong analysis, thinking that Iran was their enemy. I remember that case from the time when I was the ambassador to the region, in the United Arab Emirates; when we held meetings with them they would say, in a friendly way, that we are afraid of Iran and that if Iran becomes a powerful regional country it may pose a threat against us or our interests." He goes on to say that during the past 15 years Iran has always supported its neighbors and its foreign policy gives priority to its ties with other neighboring and Muslims countries.

Fumani continues: "During the war that Saddam Husayn waged against Iran all of those countries, in one way or the other, supported the Ba'thist regime of Saddam, making him powerful in order to avert a situation created by their wrong analysis, thinking that a powerful Islamic Republic would pose a threat against them." He then says that the Persian Gulf littoral states realized their mistake when Saddam invaded Kuwait.

He continues: Since the second Persian Gulf war we have witnessed some changes in the judgement and thinking of those countries and in the way they have opted for appropriate stances, but at a very slow-moving pace. If we wanted to give an assessment of the trend of our ties with the regional countries during the last 15 years, we could describe it as a developing process and an expanding process. That is the expansion of relations. But we have never been satisfied with the slow-moving expansion of ties. We believe that regional countries, as neighbors of the Islamic Republic, should be able to live side by side the Islamic Republic, have a peaceful life, live in an atmosphere of understanding and a healthy climate, and work alongside each other in a healthy and peaceful situation, particularly when it comes to the safeguarding of the sensitive waterway of the Persian Gulf, which can serve all regional interests.

"During the last 15 years the process of our relations with those countries has varied. Our relations are better with some of those countries. Our relations with some of those countries have reached a level where many agreements and memorandums are forged and are developing in a satisfactory manner. In future we should witness the presence of high-ranking officials from a number of those countries in the Islamic Republic. Of course Qatar is currently leading the way and its highest official, even higher than its Foreign Ministry officials—the crown prince—has already been to Iran. In future we shall see the highest ranking officials of Kuwait and Qatar in the Islamic Republic. We shall, God willing, hold meetings with them in a friendly and sincere atmosphere which should present a supreme model of neighborly and peaceful life to the people of the region."

The correspondent says: "Mr. Fumani, the majority of the PGCC members adopt a united stance. But when they meet separately with Islamic Republic officials they adopt stances different from those taken at the PGCC. What is the reason for that?"

Fumani replies: "That is right. That is an issue which we also raise with them. Some of those countries, in separate and private talks with us, say that we should not attribute the PGCC actions to them and that, in fact, their relationship with us is a special one. Of course during the 11th and 12th PGCC sessions, and particularly the 12th session which was held in Kuwait, they reviewed the issue more precisely. A number of those countries mentioned that they wanted to have special relations with the Islamic Republic and the Council, as a whole, sometimes acts in a way which is disturbing to bilateral moves. It was in that session that they made the decision to allow every individual member to establish separate ties with the Islamic Republic, and a number of those countries took further steps in that context. Obviously the role of a number of those countries—that play a more influential role in the adoption of their collective stances, as you know—is very effective, and we are aware of them."

The program is interrupted at 1600 GMt for a seven-minute newscast. The program resumes with a report on the dispute with Saudi Arabia on the issue of the hajj. An announcer reads the following commentary. After the news bulletin, the final report repeated Iran's accusation that Saudi Arabia had broken the deal with Iran on the number of pilgrim's for this year's hajj, see IRTV1 021644, but added that the Saudi authorities had taken

the decision under pressure from Washington. Fumani's comments on the subject were mild compared to previous Iranian pronouncements, saying that Iran understood that Saudi Arabia could not cope with a massive influx of pilgrims every year. [passage omitted]

"This year, the Saudi regime—in violation of previous agreements and the results of negotiations between Tehran and Riyadh—has announced that, because of particular difficulties, it will accept only 60,000 Iranian pilgrims. Therefore, the Saudi regime has once again started to put a spanner in the works of the great gathering of the world's Muslims. Arabia took this stance at a time when a number of events during recent months had strengthened the idea that Riyadh, taking into account regional and global realities, had reexamined its policies and discovered that an improvement in relations with Tehran was an objective and tangible necessity.

"A number of political experts, considering these developments, believed that Arabian authorities had apparently found out that the efforts of Western powers, especially America, to prevent an improvement of relations of other countries with the Islamic Republic of Iran was only in the interest of Washington and would, in practice, be to the detriment of regional countries. These experts emphasized that Riyadh did not see its anti-Islamic Iran policies to be in its interest, and viewed efforts to exclude the most powerful country of the region from regional developments as a useless effort.

"Although a number of events had pointed to the correctness of this analysis and the pragmatism of the Saudi rulers in certain situations, the recent policies of Arabia show that because of certain reasons, including renewed pressure from the White House, the Riyadh authorities have not yet reached a clear understanding of future regional relations." The announcer goes on to state that participation presence in the hajj is the right of Iranian Muslims.

The announcer then asks Fumani to comment on the hajj issue. After discussing the importance of the hajj for Muslims, Fumani says: "We have had difficulties over the past 15 years concerning the hajj. Considering the large number of people in our country who enthusiastically wish to be honored by visiting the house of God-...[pauses] On the other hand, Saudi Arabian officials have always said that the holy places do not have the capacity for a large number of pilgrims. Of course, whenever there was tension in our relations with Saudi Arabia, it would affect the hajj; or vice versa: whenever there was a problem over the hajj, it would affect bilateral relations. We have always told Saudi Arabia that bilateral relations should be separate from the issues of hajj; and that hajj is an international Islamic issue, it does not concern one or two countries alone."

He then says: "Saudi Government officials have always said that the house of God does not have the capacity for a flood, for a large influx of people. This is, of course, understandable." He then reviews the history of the hajj quota system, and says that the Saudi authorities are not observing an agreement made between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia in Muscat, Oman, in 1993. He says: "The Saudi authorities are not abiding by this agreement. Of course, this is still unacceptable for the Islamic Republic. At the same time, we do understand what Saudi government officials are saying when they announce that the holy places do not have the capacity. Of course, they in turn must understand the situation of the Islamic Republic and abide by their promises and signatures. We have announced to the Saudi Government that we are ready to hold negotiations." The program ends at 1620 GMT.

Hamas Spokesman on 'Spiteful' UN Response to 'Afula Bombing

LD0704161794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] In a speedy reaction, the UN secretary general and the Security Council have condemned the martyrdom-seeking action of a revolutionary Muslim Palestinian at 'Afula.

The representative of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Tehran described the stance of the UN Security Council as spiteful. He said: This proves that the Palestinian nation should not expect sympathy from the United Nations or the Security Council, because they have always remained silent in the face of the daily murder of Palestinian women and children by the Zionists.

Commentary Notes Reactions

LD0704213994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On Wednesday April 6, a Palestinian youth in a martyrdom-seeking act carried out a car-bomb attack against a commuter bus in central Afula in northern occupied Palestine. At least eight Zionists were killed and more than 60 were wounded in the attack. The Islamic movement of HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], in a telephone contact with REUTER news agency, claimed responsibility for the attack, announcing that the attack was carried out in retaliation to the massacre of the fasting Muslims in al-Khalil mosque.

According to political observers, the act is unprecedented in its nature since it has been carried out inside the occupied territories and therefore, is very significant.

Observers say this kind of operation against the usurper forces is completely understandable for the world opinion because it was predictable in the wake of the horrible crime committed by the Zionists in the al-Khalil mosque in which the worshipers were gunned down indiscriminately.

Though the Israeli security forces had taken precautionary measures during the 40-day period after the al-Khalil incident, they hardly thought that the Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine would be able to inflict such a severe blow on the Zionists inside the occupied territories where security was tighter as compared to other regions.

Actually the operation proved that the intifadah is not restricted to only the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but the struggle against the usurpers is widespread throughout the occupied territories and that all Palestinians believe in the struggle.

By laying down his life on Wednesday, the Palestinian youth drove home the point to the Zionists that they cannot spill the blood of tens of Palestinians with the support of their Western allies and escape from paying the price for the brutal act.

There is no doubt that the Western media consider the attack as a terrorist action, but for those fighting against the Zionist usurpers inside the occupied territories the act of the Palestinian youth can never be considered as a terrorist act, rather it is considered as a brave act in retaliation to the horrible crime of the Zionists in al-Khalil mosque.

The usurper regime of al-Qods [Jerusalem] will be well aware that the outcome of its suppressive policy and aggression against the rights of the Palestinian Muslims would be nothing except the retaliatory operations and further, there is no doubt, that the continued aggression of the Zionists will not only fail to hold the Palestinian Muslims' struggle for liberation, but would give it further momentum.

Jannati Leads Friday Prayers; Criticizes U.S. 'Pressures'

LD0804101994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] In his Friday prayer sermons, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the acting Friday imam of Tehran, said that the martyrdom-seeking attack by a Palestinian youth was a clear example of the uprising of Muslims against the arrogance's injustice and oppression.

He referred to the compromise plans in connection with the Palestinian issue and said: Compromise by claimants to leadership of Palestine does not solve any of the Zionist regime's problems.

In his second sermon, Ayatollah Jannati referred to the emphasis by the eminent leader [Khamene'i] on the importance of work ethics, the social order, and a serious attitude towards work. He said that the lack of such an attitude constituted one of the shortcomings of the society, and called for greater efforts in this area.

He then alluded to the grave responsibilities of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a medium for communications. He stressed the need for greater efforts, as well as more help for that organization, so as to enable it to provide a more valuable service.

The acting Friday imam of Tehran then set out to describe all the pressures exerted by America with the aim of forcing the Islamic Republic of Iran to surrender. He stressed once again that the Iranian nation would never surrender to tyranny and oppression.

Clinton's Remarks, U.S. Support of Israel Criticized

NC0604171094 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Mar 94 p 8

[Political commentary: "Clinton's Words—Bigger Than His Mouth"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton alleged very clearly that "Jerusalem is an integral and permanent capital of Israel and cannot be divided."

These remarks have caused manifestations of hatred and abhorrence on the part of the Palestinian political groups that have broken away from the PLO. These allegations are the political stance of a government that is seeking to project itself as a "neutral mediator" to create conditions for what it terms "Arab-Israeli peace." These remarks were made when Israel's domination of Jerusalem and, in fact, the usurpation of Jordan's West Bank have not been officially recognized by the United Nations. Thus, the city of Jerusalem—which is revered by followers of all divine religions and has a special sanctity and importance—has been described as the indivisible capital of the despotic Zionist tyrants.

This opinion clearly indicates the dimensions of U.S. support for the occupationist regime of Palestine and depicts the position of Israel as the progeny of the United States. It is certain that the Zionists have laid great premium on U.S. support for the attainment of their objectives and the materialization of their expansionist policies,

Therefore, if the Zionists covet the territory of their neighboring countries; ensure their existence by the policy of terrorism, intimidation, and repression; perpetrate atrocities such as the massacre of fasting worshipers in al-Khalil [Hebron] without any pretext; and constantly speak from a position of superiority and strength in the rounds of talks with the spineless Arab regimes, it is because their actions are based on the overt support of the Americans.

Since the dawn of history, holy Jerusalem has suffered numerous incidents of tyranny and suppression by Europeans, Americans, and then the Israelis. Today at the height of the treasonous indifference of the regional Arab rulers, it is on its way to becoming the main power base of the murderers of the Palestinian nation.

The fact is that Arab governments have played a considerable role in paving the way for the current situation. The crisis of the oil war and the synchronized stances of the Arabs and Zionists during that crisis created the psychological circumstances for subsequent sessions aimed at a compromise between the Arabs and the Israeli despots. This provided a conducive background for the overt and covert closeness between the Zionists and Arab echelons and proved to be an important weapon for neutralizing the struggles of the Muslim Palestinian nation for the liberation of their country from the clutches of the despots.

Unfortunately, the Islamic world today is riddled by dissent, discord, and disharmony more than it ever has been. The governments ruling over the Islamic countries have been alienated from Islam and Islamic values on the one hand, and from their own people on the other.

This alienation—coupled with the phenomena of an inferiority complex, underestimating themselves, and bartering themselves away—on the part of the Islamic countries before the Zionists has constantly been one of the basic factors for the gradual growth of Zionism and the expansion of its political influence and domain in the heartland of Islamic territories.

The consolidation of the Zionist strategy in occupied Palestine and their gradual infiltration into the neighboring countries, which was a culmination of the traitorous conferences of compromise between Arabs and Israel in the region in the past one or two years, is to a large extent the result of this very defensiveness, laxity, self-bartering, and erroneous perceptions on the part of the rulers and shaykhs of the region.

It is certain that for every step the Arab governments take backward in the face of the extortionist demands of the United States and the government it has spawned in occupied Palestine, the Americans and Zionists rush two steps forward in a more exacting and audacious manner for greater privileges, and describe this policy as "peace."

The events of the past two decades in occupied Palestine and its borders with all the Islamic countries, which were marked by numerous fluctuations, should drive home to the Arab governments that the Zionist regime is not to be satisfied with what it can grab with its talons. Naturally, dealing with such a wanton government can never be a source of peace and stability for the zealous Middle East region.

The best and most logical stance has been adopted today by those inside occupied Palestine and in south Lebanon who—in parallel with the proliferation of their Islamic and cultural activities—have pitched themselves against the criminal Israeli regime. They are the ones who have kept the flame of the intifadah alight for so many years under the worst possible conditions.

Paper Examines U.S. Differences With China

NC0604210594 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 17 Mar 94 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The U.S. Human Rights Vessel Ran Aground in Beijing"]

[Text] After three days of talks with the PRC leaders in which he tried unsuccessfully to impose the U.S. version of human rights, the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher departed Beijing.

He failed to bring Washington's and Beijing's viewpoints on human rights any closer. Contrary to his expectations, the U.S. Secretary of State encountered firm and intransigent stances by the PRC authorities in the course of his 10 hours of intensive talks with them as they rejected his recommendations outright.

What is certain is that Christopher visited the PRC in order to deliver a final warning to the PRC leaders and to convince them to accept Washington's conditions on human rights issues. He said: The issue of human rights and the Most Favored Nation [MFN] status were the salient features of the talks between the two sides. Christopher went to Beijing in order to exert pressure on the basis of its chronic ploy, the MFN treaty which the United States uses in its tactics to put pressure on the PRC.

Ever since the Tiananmen Square incident in 1989, the United States has raised the extension of the MFN trade law and linked it to progress in the field of human rights. In fact, it is really seeking a way to extend it. The PRC has realized by now that the United States stands to gain equally if not more from the extension of MFN status. According to Li Peng, the PRC prime minister, if the United States were to revoke this clause, it would lose as much if not more than the PRC, and U.S. companies would not be able to enter or remain in the PRC's extensive and capacious market.

Accordingly, the PRC authorities, in an unprecedented action, very clearly and firmly stressed to Christopher that they will not be pressured by the United States, particularly by Washington's viewpoint on human rights and the MFN.

It is a fact that the United States is not really concerned about the human rights situation in the PRC and merely intends to use this ostensibly humanitarian issue to reap political and commercial capital from Beijing. The U.S. mass media, which acts as the right arm of the White House hierarchy in whipping up a propagandistic atmosphere, had embarked on their campaign a few days before Christopher commenced his trip and gave extensive coverage to the talks between Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck and some opponents of the PRC regime on the issue of human rights, including Wei Jingsheng and various similar interviews. This was

aimed at provoking the sensibilities of the PRC authorities so that they would reveal an absence of democracy in the PRC.

Following the meetings between the U.S. officials and the opponents of the PRC government precisely one week before Christopher's visit, the PRC security officials summoned Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan and some other dissidents who had been released in the past six months; they were released again after 24 hours.

The news coverage by the U.S. satellite networks and the swift reaction of the White House authorities, including Clinton, against this move by the PRC Government proved that the U.S. had acted solely to put the Beijing hierarchy on the defensive, especially with regard to human rights issues prior to Christopher's visit.

Simultaneously, the United States tried to motivate the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] in Geneva to make a fuss over the human rights situation in the PRC on the eve of Christopher's visit to Beijing, thus trying to internationalize the PRC's human rights situation and to put the PRC at a disadvantage before it came to the negotiating table with the U.S. Secretary of State. Washington's plan to use the UNHRC to exert pressure on the PRC also met defeat.

On the other hand, hardline PRC Prime Minister Li Peng's articulate remarks in parliament only a day before Christopher's visit with regard to the human rights situation in the PRC and the meaningful statement by the PRC foreign minister rejoicing at the West's defeat due to the [UN's] failure to approve the plan to debate the human rights situation in the PRC portended the fruitlessness of Christopher's visit beforehand.

However, at his very first round of talks with Christopher, the PRC foreign minister, disregarding political considerations, openly expressed his rancor and criticism of the meeting between the assistant secretary of state for human rights, John Shattuck, with Chinese dissidents. On the same day, two American journalists were arrested in Beijing for a few hours on charges of illegal activity.

The PRC security officials also tightened security around the U.S. Embassy and the residence of Warren Christopher before his arrival and kept the comings and goings at these places under strict surveillance.

The PRC's actions prior to the visit and during it confused the U.S., according to a U.S. spokesman. However, it is certain the Chinese authorities intended by these actions to show the United States categorically that they would not succumb to any kind of pressure from it.

Even though Christopher explained that his visit was aimed at insuring that the PRC comprehended the importance of human rights from the U.S. viewpoint and in the context of the MFN, the Chinese side stated that it had noted the U.S. stance in this regard. However, it is obvious that U.S. policies—especially with regard to exerting pressure on the pretext of human rights in the PRC—ran aground and Warren Christopher returned to the United States with nothing to rejoice about.

During the course of his visit, Christopher handed to the PRC officials a list of Chinese political prisoners but he did not receive an positive response in this regard. The PRC officials stressed that their country has an independent legal system and it acts according to its own laws.

Of course, it may be mentioned that the PRC does have some problems related to its adherence to human rights with regard some cases involving ethnic minorities.

Regardless of the human rights issue, to which the major part of Christopher's talks with the PRC officials was devoted, this visit provided the two countries with an opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest such as trade and military cooperation in arms control, especially of missiles, the DPRK's nuclear program and other important regional and international issues.

In the course of this visit, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on importing and exporting products made by prisoners, which ensures the implementation of the agreements reached in 1992. The PRC and the United States agreed to resume their military contacts after a hiatus of five years and agreed that a joint committee on the arms industry and for transforming military industries into civilian industries will be set up and its first session will be held in Beijing this year.

In any case, Christopher's visit to the PRC and the defeat of his talks with the Chinese officials, especially with regard to human rights—the main U.S. lever in pressuring the PRC for the past few years—proved that even after more than a year since his entry into the White House, Clinton has not been able to formulate acceptable diplomacy toward Beijing and that Washington-Beijing relations will encounter unforeseen highs and lows in the future.

Clinton Remarks on 'Enemies of Peace' Viewed

NC0604164094 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Mar 94 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "Mr. Clinton! Who Are the Enemies of Peace in Palestine?"]

[Text] We should not permit the enemies of peace to be victorious! This was a remark by U.S. President Clinton at the conclusion of his talks with the prime minister of the Israeli regime at the White House.

Regardless of the fact that, in itself, this remark is quite correct and logical and, in practice, one should prevent the enemies of peace from becoming victorious in Palestine, one must first see who are the "enemies of peace."

These enemies of peace are none other than the Zionists and their supporters. It has become clear to world public

opinion today that the debacle of the slaughter of the Muslims in al-Khalil [Hebron] did not take place without the direct support of the Israeli armed forces. The Israeli press and Western supporters have also admitted this fact.

The slaughter of fasting Muslim worshipers who were prostrate in the mosque of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) has ripped the mask from the visage of the true enemies of Islam and revealed their repulsive faces. Are the enemies of peace anyone other than those who for many years have usurped the first qiblah [direction in which Muslims say their prayers] of the Muslims and kill the Muslim youth residing in those areas every day?

The U.S. President, who is a champion of human rights, ignores all these crimes and shamelessly alleges that PLO leaders should not permit incidents such as the al-Khalil [Hebron] carnage to hinder progress toward peace and not expect greater concessions from Israel for resumption of talks!

Is support of a criminal not tantamount to being an accomplice? The United States is as much responsible for the shedding of the blood of innocent Muslims in Palestine as Israel is, as it not only prevents their condemnation at international forums but encourages this terrorist regime by various kinds of economic and political assistance.

After many years of psychological war and adverse propaganda against those they describe as "enemies of peace," the United States and Israel should note that such opinions will not in any way affect the determination of the Palestinian Muslims all over Palestine for the liberation of dear Jerusalem.

Clinton should realize that the era of such efforts to deceive the people has ended. How is it possible that the greatest criminals in history and their supporters speak of peace and consider themselves peace-seekers? The day is not too far away when the true enemies of peace, security, and freedom will face a disgraceful defeat.

Pakistan

Bhutto Comments on Government Measures, Nuclear Program

BK0704150294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has again declared that Pakistan will never agree to roll back its nuclear program. It is our commitment to the people and the government will not compromise on the country's nuclear program. The prime minister was replying to questions by newsmen in the Parliament House today. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said it has been the stand of Pakistan that the nuclear issue will not be solved by cornering it. The United States should have an even-handed policy toward both Pakistan and India and the Pressler Amendment, she added, is a veto in the hands of India. About the forthcoming visit of the American assistant secretary of state [title as heard], Mr. Strobe Talbott, the prime minister said Pakistan wants nuclear nonproliferation and has put forward many proposals for nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia, but India has rejected all these. If any other nation puts forward its own proposals on the subject, we are ready to consider them too. We will not agree to unilateral capping of nuclear installations, but if the Indians do so, Islamabad would also agree to it. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the United States should realize that Pakistanis are a proud and honorable nation very conscious of their self respect and the government's policy on the nuclear program enjoys a national consensus.

Replying to a question on the opposition's role on national issues, the prime minister urged that the opposition should give up its attitude of confrontation and join hands with the government on sensitive issues of national importance like Kashmir and the nuclear program. She said we should take the interest of the country above our personal interest and should work for the economic well being of the people. Mr. Benazir Bhutto said her government has taken revolutionary measures since assumption of power. Recounting these measures, she said hers is the first government in the history of Pakistan which imposed income tax on agriculture. Load shedding [power cuts] has been a problem since many years and her government soon after coming into power sanctioned two power projects—one in Hab and other at Ghazi Barotha. We curtailed the deficit financing in the country and did not resort to mini budget which was very difficult. The results of our policies, the prime minister said, will become clear 18 months after our assumption of office.

Talking about the increase in the base price of wheat, the prime minister said 70 percent of the country's population lives in rural areas and are farmers. They were not sowing wheat as its price was very low resulting in a decline in the country's wheat production. The government, therefore, had to import wheat. It was a difficult decision and those who have lust for power would not have taken this decision. But we take power as a noble trust by the people and as a responsibility. These are difficult decisions which will benefit the country in the long run.

Mirani Reaffirms 'Unflinching' Support for UN Peace Efforts

BK0804110694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has said Pakistan will continue to support United Nations' peace efforts and will continue to give its traditionally unflinching support to the UN's active role in the maintenance and promotion of world peace and security. Addressing as the special guest at a seminar on the UN role as a peacemaking body in Karachi yesterday, he said Pakistan supports the process initiated by the UN secretary general through his report called the peace

agenda to strengthen and bolster the actions for peace and security. He said arrangements should be made to supply in advance arms and equipment for the safety of UN contingents in extremely dangerous regions and to provide information on the use of equipment by member countries taking part in UN operations.

Editorial Views U.S. Request To 'Freeze' Kashmir Issue

BK0304114994 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 Apr 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Freezing Kashmir?"]

[Text] There has been talk for sometime of freezing the nuclear programme. But while we are still engaged in trying to figure out its implications, another trial balloon, this time of "freezing" the Kashmir issue, whatever that means, has gone up. In the context of nuclear development a whole new vocabulary of "capping", putting the brackes on, "freezing", "not crossing the red line", "rolling back", etc, has grown and come to be understood. But application of the same vocabulary on human endeavour for the achievements of their basic rights, is really hard to swallow. The report that Pakistan has been asked by the US to "freeze the Kashmir issue", leaves one dismayed. Firstly, because unlike its nuclear programme, Paksitan is not its sole motivator or controller. There are two other parties—the freedom fighters and the Indian occupation troops—neither under Pakistan's control, who are hardly interested in freezing it. The troops will continue their atrocities and the freedom-fighters will continue their struggle. Unless Pakistan, India and the Kashmiris agree to stop all their activities, Pakistan's unilateral halt to its diplomatic offensive would mean little. Secondly, the term "freezing" implies that but for Pakistan there would be no trouble in Kashmir. This reading of the situation, repeatedly projected by India, is believed by all that is happening today. Pakistan had, in fact, kept Kashmir issue on its back burner for nearly a decade, particularly during General Zia's rule. Pakistani leadership had then been persuaded by India to believe that the less important differences between the two countries needed to be sorted out first. That would, it was said, create the right climate of confidence-building for solving the major issue of Kashmir. It was the people of Kashmir who rose against that apathetic approach. The message they sent to both Pakistan and India was that they had a voice that needed to be heard. And their voice continues to ring loud and clear, even as their blood flows freely in the Valley. How can Pakistan, even if it wants to, put out a flame that burns in the heart of every Kashmir?

Pakistan was asked by the US not to raise the Kashmir issue in the UN General Assembly and instead talk to India. Pakistan complied. India used that full to crush the Kashmiris with even greater brutality. Then it passed a resolution in its Parliament to enable it to refile from its own admission of the status of Kashmir—that of a disputed territory. Pakistan was again asked by the US (and others) not to raise the Kashmir issue at the UNHRC. Again Pakistan complied. India sent in more troops in the Valley and started killing more people on this side of the LOC. To keep the US beguiled, India first despatched its Foreign Secretary and then some non-papers to Pakistan. Their central theme was: "back to confidence-building measures". Pakistan has been bitten by that bug before. It is US's turn to be bitten by it. In a way it is the same approach as on the nuclear issue. Ask Pakistan to "cap" first then we will see if India follows. Now, ask Pakistan to freeze Kashmir first then we will see if India can be restrained from its reign of terror there. Someone has to be really naive to fall for that line again and again. Pakistan has learnt its lesson. Maybe the US will also learn its lesson at India's hands.